

XU XIANZHE
& ZHANG XIAO

5

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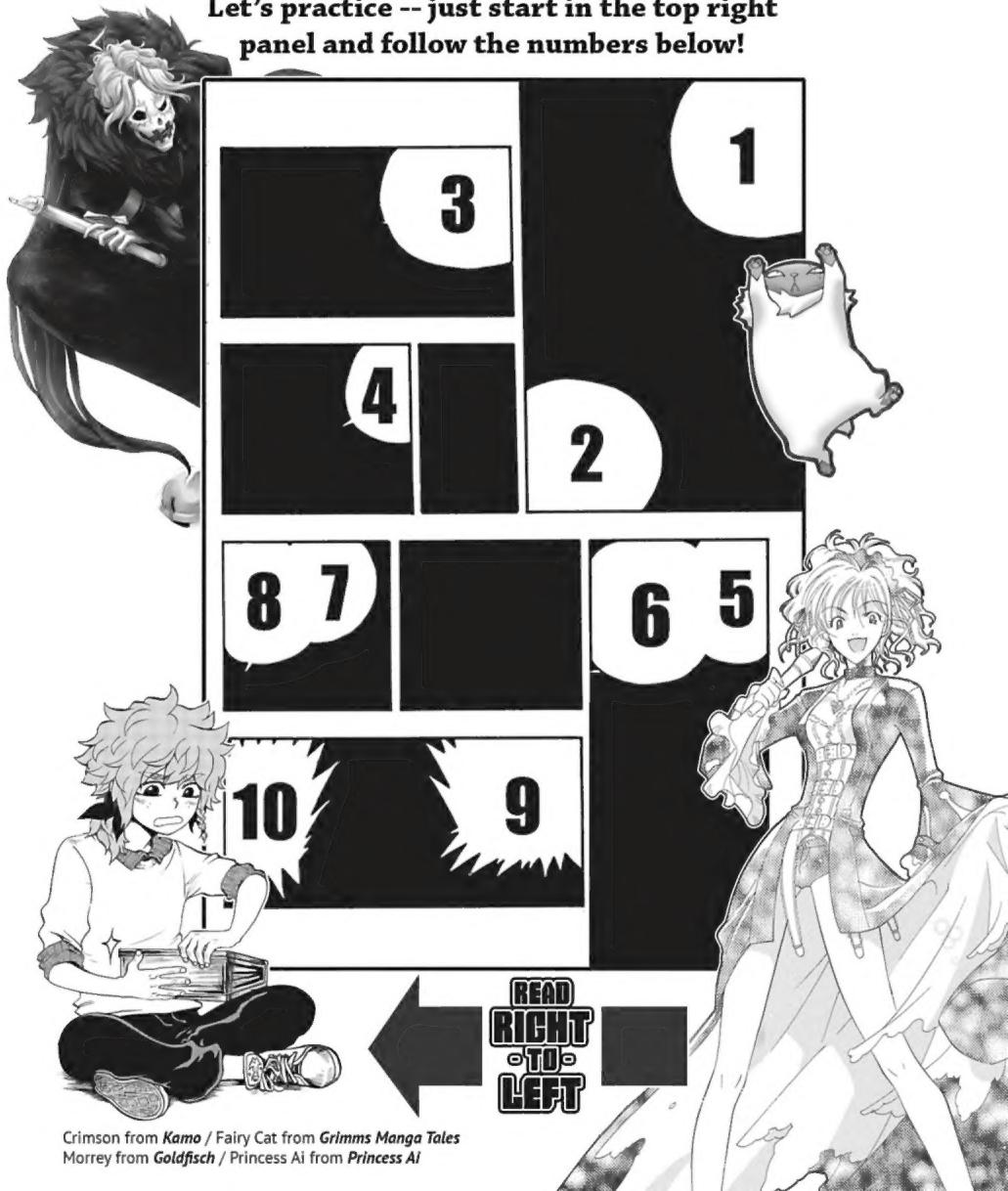


ASSASSIN'S CREED DYNASTY

STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple!
Let's practice -- just start in the top right
panel and follow the numbers below!



DEAR READERS,

Thank you for reading!

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~ **TOKYOPOP**



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FIN.



WE ARE
THE HIDDEN
ONES.

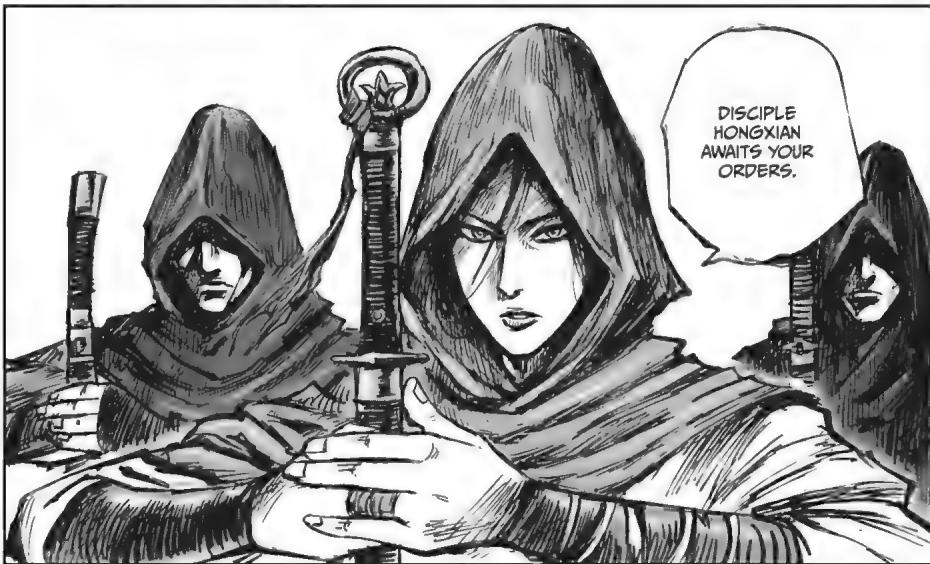
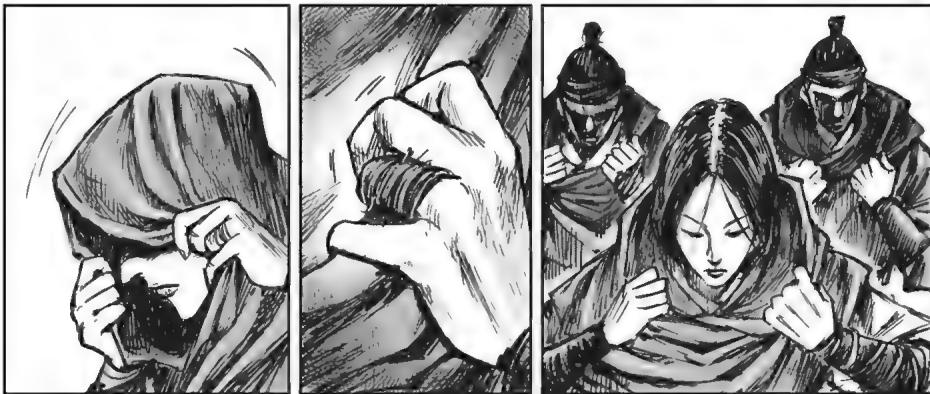


WE
WORK
IN THE
DARK...

TO
SERVE
THE
LIGHT.







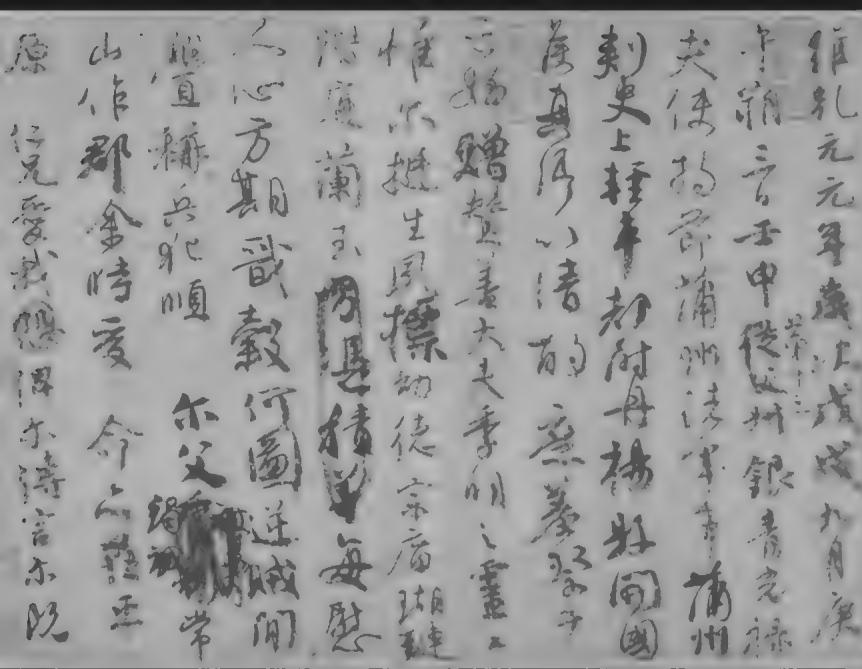




MODERN INTERPRETATION:

THE FIRST YEAR OF QUANYUAN UNDER EMPEROR TANG SUZONG'S REIGN (756 A.D.),
THE WUXU YEAR OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE NINTH MONTH OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE FIRST DAY OF
THE LUNAR MONTH, GENGWU, AND THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH, RENSHEN.

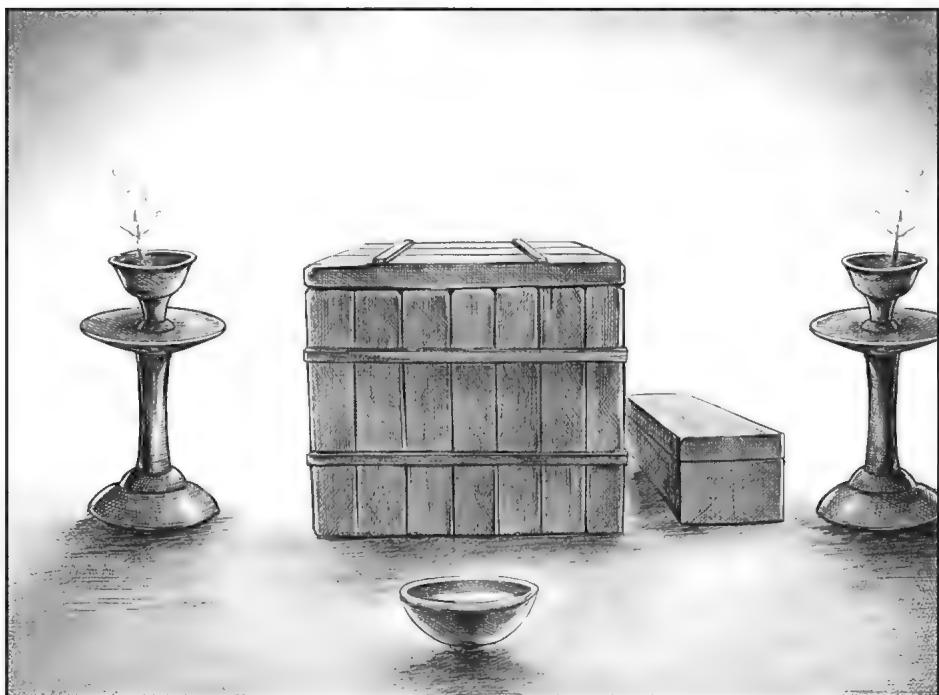
YAN JIMING'S THIRTEENTH UNCLE, THE GRAND MASTER FOR SPLENDID HAPPINESS CARRYING A SILVER SIGNET AND DONNING A GREEN CORDON; MILITARY COMMANDER AND PREFECT OF PUZHOU; CONFERRED THE TITLE OF SENIOR COMMANDANT OF LIGHT CARRIAGES AND FOUNDER OF DANYANG COUNTY. YAN ZHENQING PAYS MY RESPECTS TO THE SOUL OF MY DECEASED NEPHEW, GRAND MASTER ADMONISHER YAN JIMING, WITH WINE AND DELICACIES. YOU WERE BORN AN OUTSTANDING CHILD, FAR MORE UPRIGHT THAN YOUNG MEN OF YOUR AGE. YOU WERE LIKE A PRECIOUS VESSEL IN A SHRINE, YET AKIN TO THE FLOWERS AND TREES IN THE GARDEN. WE WERE GLADDENED BY YOU. WE HOPED YOU WOULD BE BLESSED WITH HAPPINESS AND RISE TO BE A CAPABLE OFFICIAL. YET, THE TRAITORS MOBILIZED THEIR TROOPS AND STAGED AN UNEXPECTED REBELLION. YOUR FATHER DID HIS BEST AS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHAN. AT THAT TIME, I, TOO, WAS SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR OF PINGYUAN UNDER IMPERIAL ORDERS. OUT OF MY COUSIN'S DESIRE TO PROTECT ME, HE SENT YOU AS A MESSENGER TO ME. THE MOMENT YOU RETURNED TO CHANGSHAN, TUMEN WAS RECLAIMED. ONCE TUMEN WAS OPEN, THE MIGHT OF THE TERRIBLE ENEMY WEAKENED. THE TRAITOROUS OFFICIAL WANG CHENGYE HOARDED SOLDIERS AND REFUSED TO SEND HELP. AS A RESULT, CHANGSHAN WAS SIEGED. FATHER, SON, AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY WERE SLAIN. IT WAS AS THOUGH A BIRD'S NEST HAD FALLEN FROM A TREE, AND ALL THE EGGS WITHIN SHATTERED WITHOUT A SINGLE SURVIVOR. THE HEAVENS CANNOT REDEEM THEMSELVES FROM THIS TRAGEDY, YET WHO IS TO BE BLAMED FOR IT? NOW THAT YOU HAVE MET SUCH A HORRIBLE END, HOW CAN YOUR DISMEMBERED BODY BE REDEEMED? OH, WHAT GRIEF! I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE EMPEROR AND SENT TO SERVE AS AN OFFICIAL IN HEGUAN. QUANMING OF OUR FAMILY HAS RETURNED TO CHANGSHAN, CARRYING A COFFIN BEARING YOUR HEAD. HE HAS RETURNED WITH YOU. MY HEART IS PIERCED BY YEARNING. MY SOUL TREMBLES, AND MY FACE DISTORTS WITH IMMENSE HEARTBREAK. IN THE FUTURE, A SERENE SPOT WILL BE CHOSEN FOR YOUR GRAVE, AND YOU WILL BE BURIED. IF YOUR SOUL IS LISTENING, PLEASE LET YOUR RESENTMENT REST AND HEAD ON TO A BETTER PLACE. OH, SUCH GRIEF! PLEASE ENJOY THESE OFFERINGS.

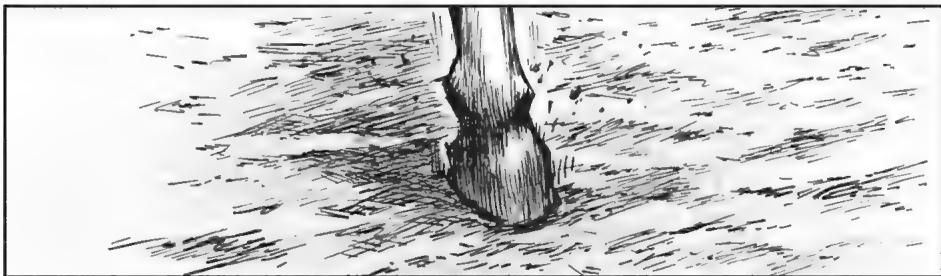


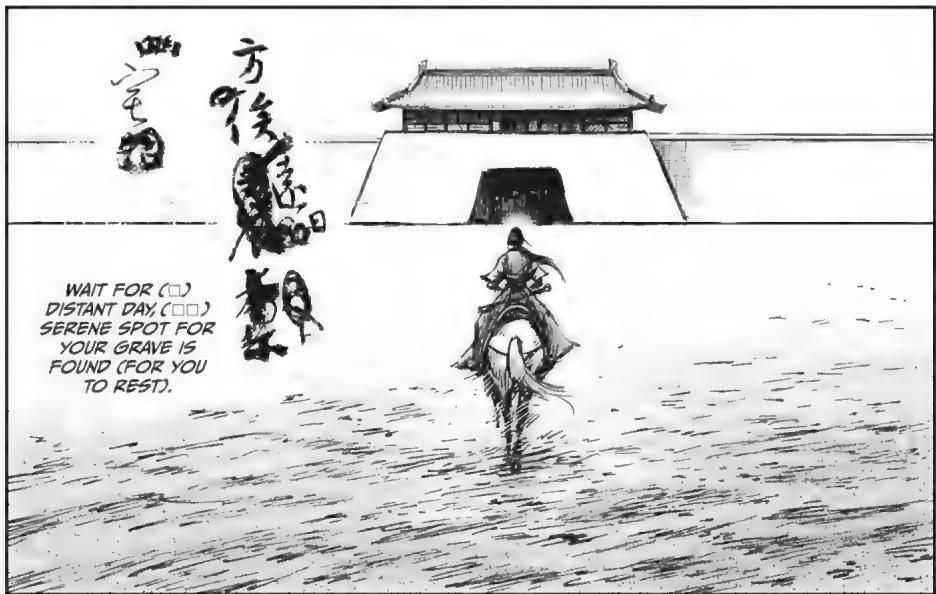
壬午元年歲次戊戌九月庚
午朔三日壬申從兄銀青光祿
大夫任和甫號蒲洲達甫書于蒲州
刻史上輕車都尉再補壯同國
任丘府之清河縣
子孫贈輕車大太監之書
惟以挺生風操幼從家廟湖
陽府蒲州因選績于每壁
心方期戰穀何圖逆賊間
相直稱兵犯順爾父
山作郡金時交令之莊王
原復冤孽我懇因尔清言尔以

YAN ZHENQING'S DRAFT
OF A REQUIEM TO MY
NEPHEW (THE SECOND
BEST WALKING SCRIPT
IN THE WORLD, FUNERAL
ADDRESS FOR MY
NEPHEW)





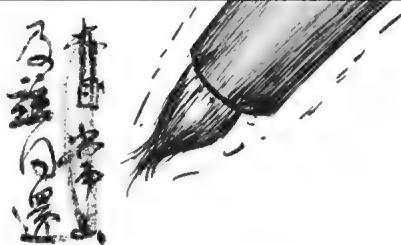




I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY
THE EMPEROR AND SENT TO
SERVE IN (THE VICINITY OF
HEDONG) HEGUAN. QUANMING
OF OUR FAMILY HAS RETURNED
TO CHANGSHAN. (LIFTING)
CARRYING A COFFIN BEARING
YOUR HEAD, HE HAS (LEFT
CHANGSHAN).



LEFT
CHANGSHAN
RETURNED
TOGETHER.



MY HEART IS
PIERCED BY
YEARNING...

捨念摧切





OH, WHAT
GRIEF!



AS A RESULT, THE
CITY WAS SIEGED.
THE FATHER WAS
(CAPTURED) AND
KILLED, WHILE THE
SON WAS SLAIN.

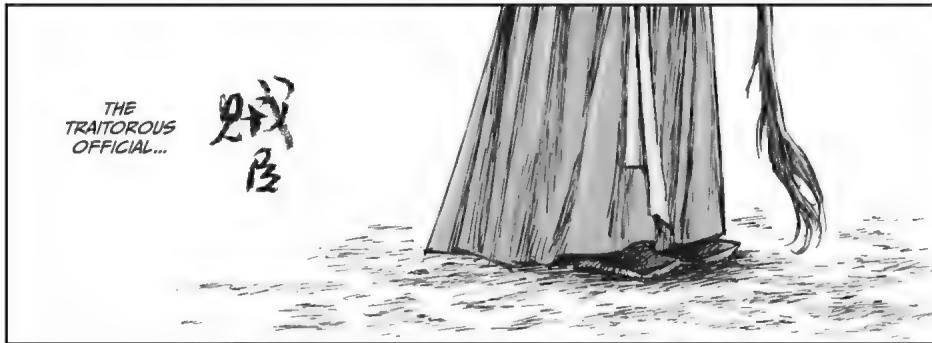
城圍通
父陷子



IT WAS AS
THOUGH A
BIRD'S NEST
HAD FALLEN
FROM A TREE,
AND ALL THE
EGGS WITHIN
SHATTERED
WITHOUT
A SINGLE
SURVIVOR.

城圍通
卵單

卵



AT THAT TIME, I, TOO, WAS
SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR
OF PINGYUAN UNDER IMPERIAL
ORDERS. OUT OF MY COUSIN'S
DESIRE TO PROTECT ME, HE
SENT YOU (OUT OF FEAR)
AS A MESSENGER TO ME.

歸土
大慶
歸土
大慶
THE MOMENT
YOU RETURNED
TO CHANGSHAN,
TUMEN WAS
RECLAIMED.
ONCE TUMEN
WAS OPEN, THE
MIGHT OF THE
TERrible ENEMY
WEAKENED.

THE MOMENT
YOU RETURNED
TO CHANGSHAN,
TUMEN WAS
RECLAIMED.
ONCE TUMEN
WAS OPEN, THE
MIGHT OF THE
TERRIBLE ENEMY
WEAKENED.

金時度 今之在玉
原 仁愛我 但得亦傳言亦以



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賊
間

WE HOPED YOU
WOULD BE BLESSED
WITH HAPPINESS
AND RISE TO BE A
CAPABLE OFFICIAL.
YET, THE TRAITORS
MOBILIZED THEIR
TROOPS AND STAGED
AN UNEXPECTED
REBELLION.



□ ARE UNREADABLE CHARACTERS.

YOUR FATHER
(□) (FORCED)
DID HIS BEST AS
THE GOVERNOR
OF CHANGSHAN.

山
東
都
作

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父
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過
城

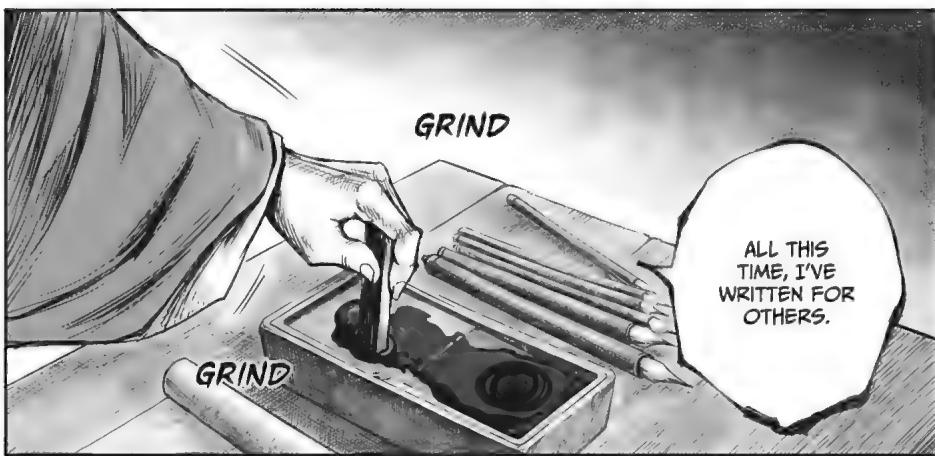




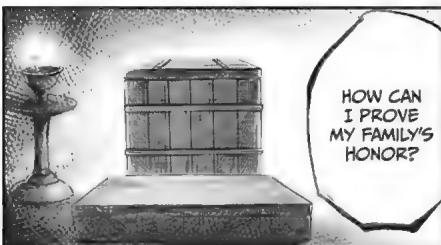
壬戌年歲次戊戌歲有庚
年朝元元年歲次戊戌歲有庚

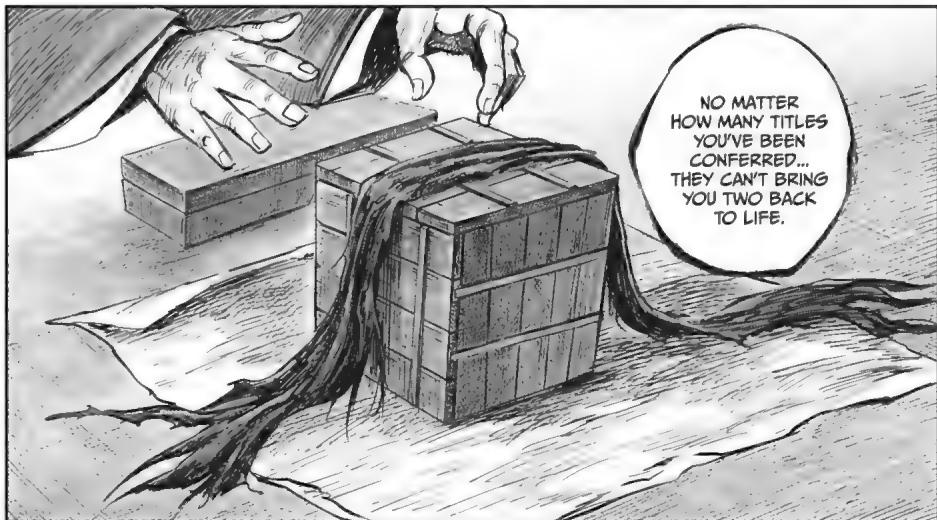
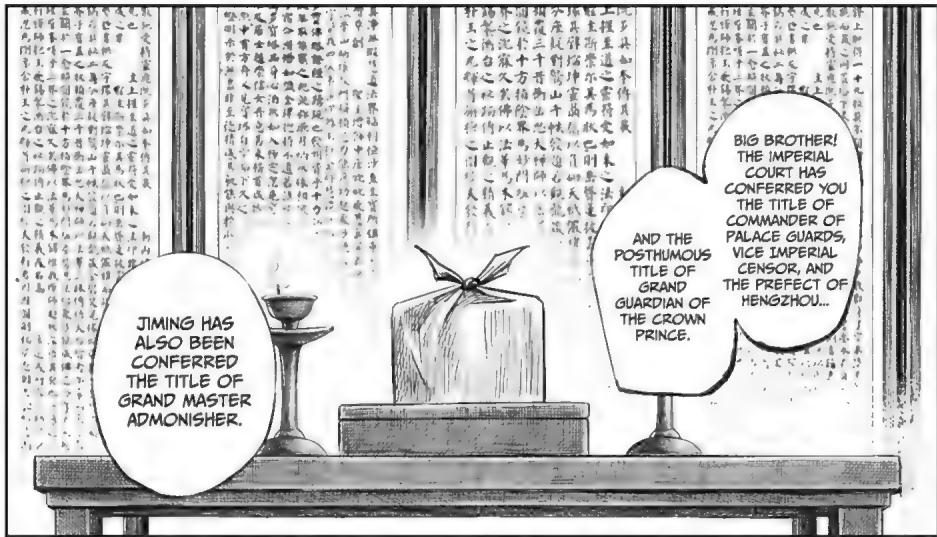
THE FIRST YEAR OF QIANYUAN,
THE WUXU YEAR OF THE LUNAR
CALENDAR. THE NINTH MONTH
OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE
FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH,
GENGWU, AND THE THIRD DAY OF
THE LUNAR MONTH, RENSHEN.

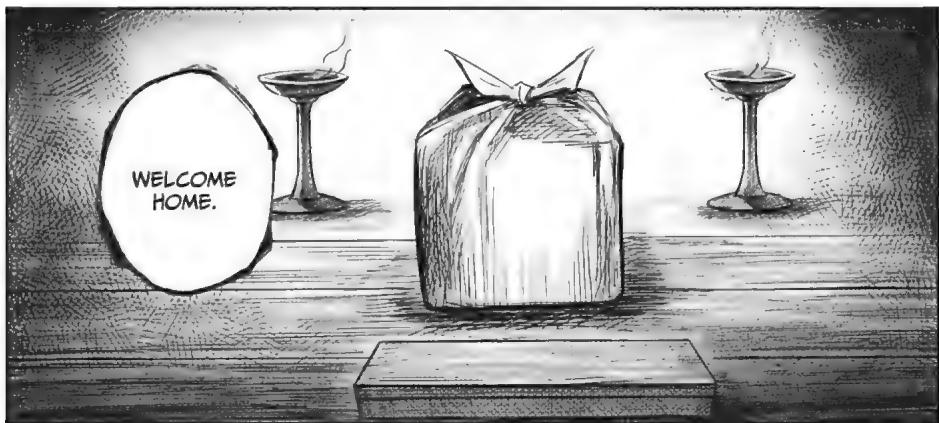
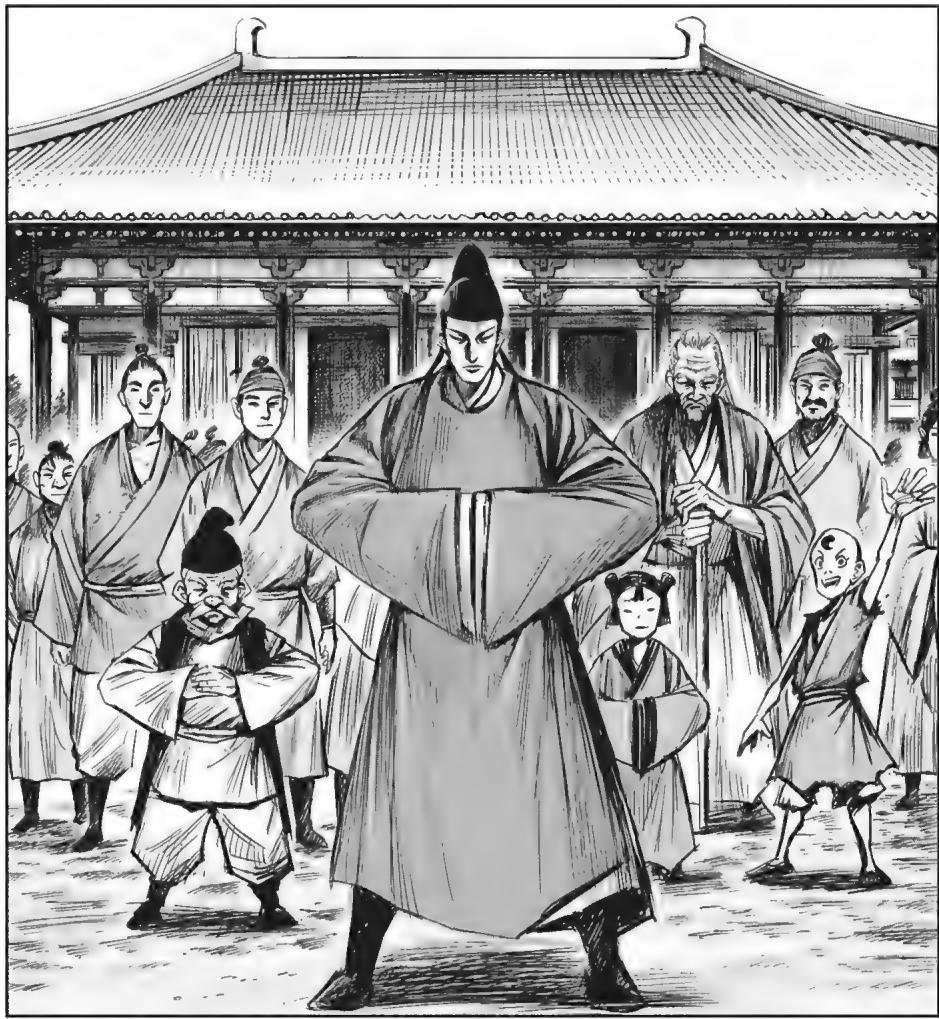




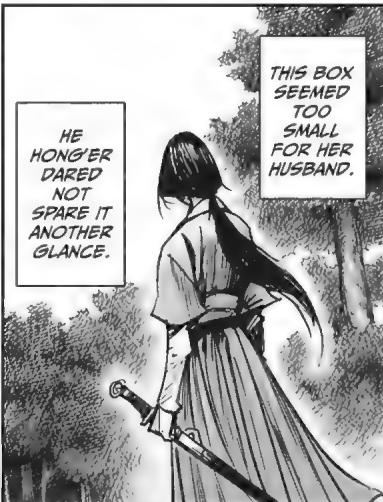




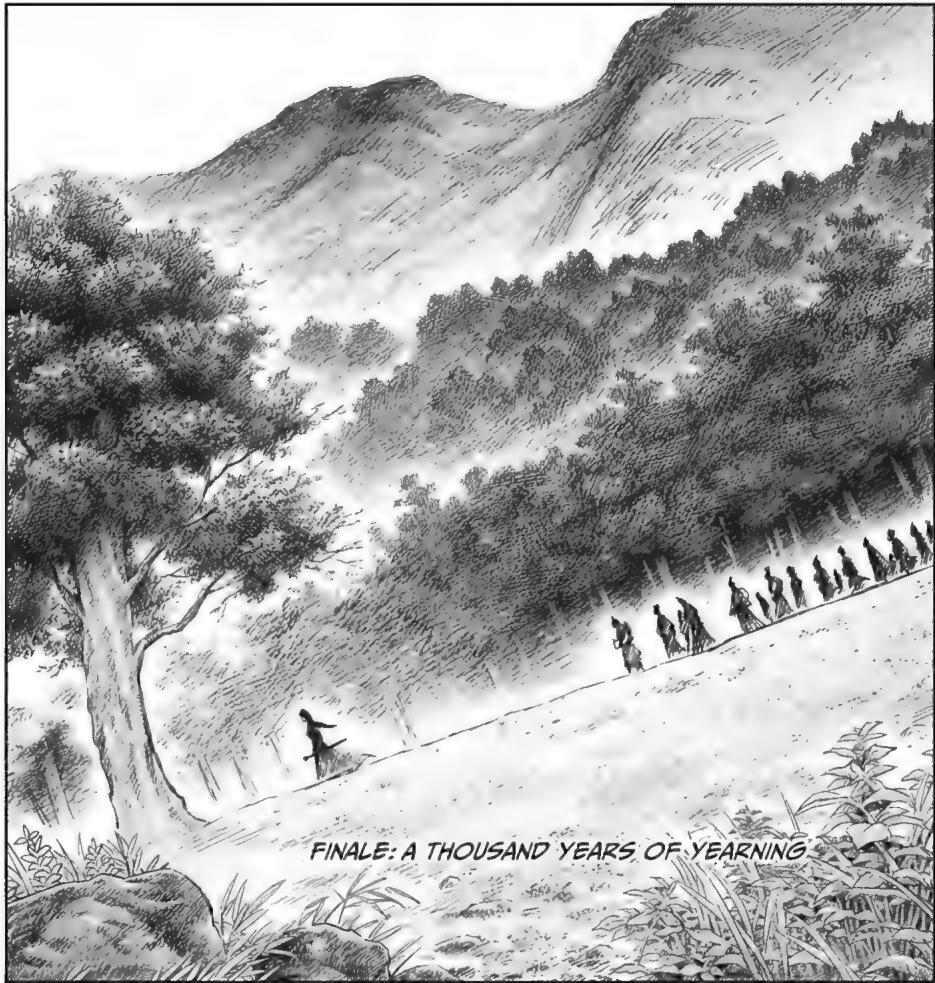












FINALE: A THOUSAND YEARS OF YEARNING



A YEAR LATER-



THE SPARROWS FLY INTO THE
SKY, AND IN THE SKY, GIRLS LAY
WHITE FELT TO DRY. ON THE FELT,
GOLD PILES HIGH.

THIS NURSERY RHYME WAS CIRCULATED AMONG THE COMMON FOLK BEFORE THE AN LUSHAN REBELLION, THE PEOPLE VIEWED IT AS A PROPHECY FORETELLING THE FATE OF AN LUSHAN.

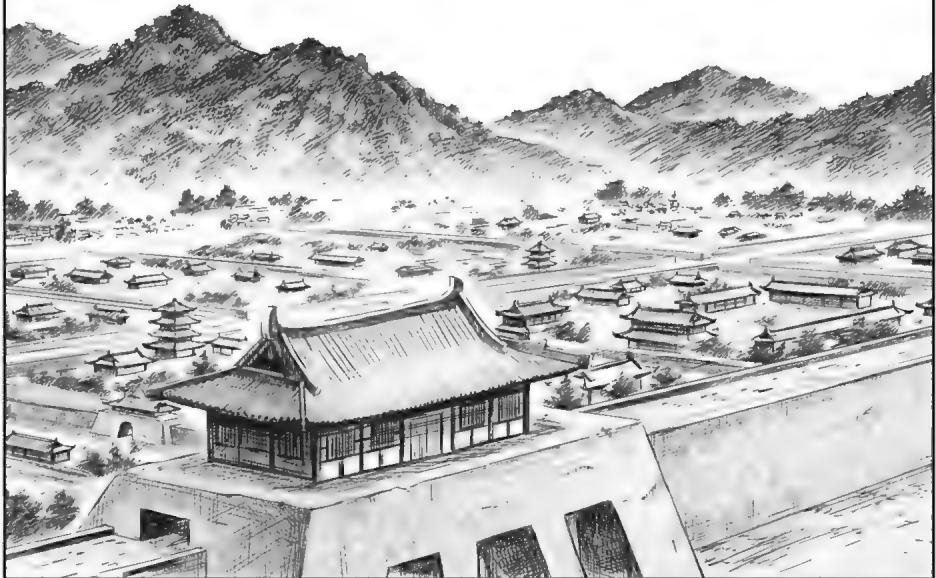
SPARROWS ALLUDE TO AN LUSHAN'S KINGDOM OF "YAN" (SPARROW). IN THE LINE ON GIRLS IN THE SKY, THE CHARACTER 女 (GIRL), UNDER THE UPPER RADICAL 奂 FORMS 安 (AND IN AN LUSHAN). WHITE FELT IS A REFERENCE TO SNOW, AND THE TERM FOR GOLD, 千金 (A THOUSAND GOLDEN PIECES), ALLUDES TO A THOUSAND DAYS IN THE WORLD.

AN LUSHAN STAGED HIS
REBELLION ON THE
ELEVENTH MONTH OF
YIMO, THE FOURTEENTH
YEAR OF TIANBAO.
(ELEVENTH MONTH, 755 A.D.)

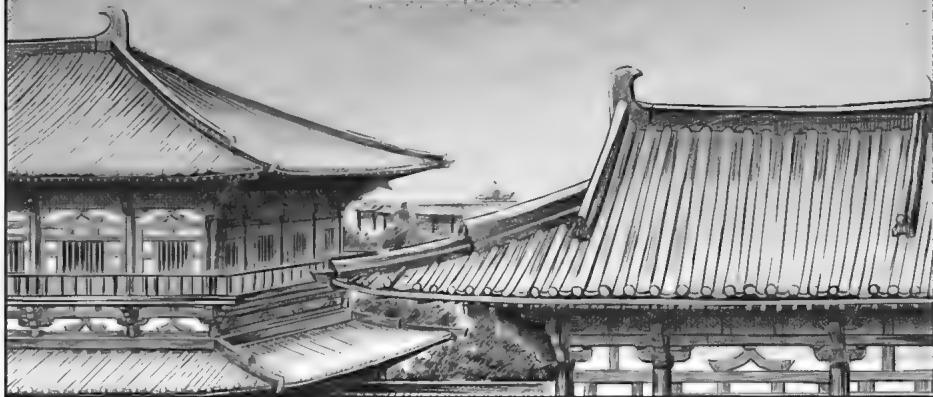
ON THE FIRST MONTH
OF DINGYOU, THE SECOND
YEAR OF ZHIDE, HE WAS KILLED.
(FIRST MONTH OF THE LUNAR
CALENDAR, 757 A.D.)



THREE YEARS AFTER
USURPING THE THRONE,
HE DIED AT FIFTY-FIVE
YEARS OLD.



ON THE NINTH MONTH
OF THE SAME YEAR, TANG
GENERAL GUO ZIMI LED HIS ARMY
TO RECLAIM CHANG'AN.



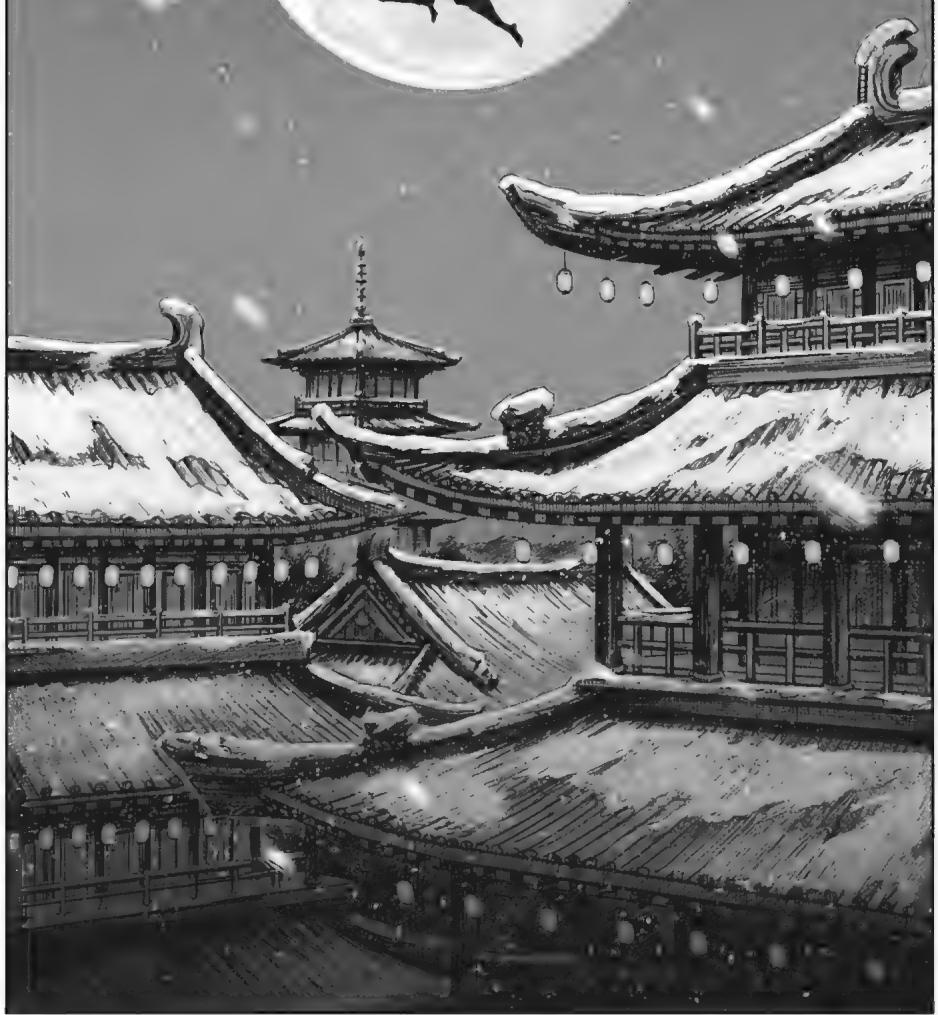
ON THE TENTH MONTH OF THE
SAME YEAR, THE TANG SOLDIERS
RECOVERED LUOYANG.



AN QINGXU FLED
TO HEBEI, WITH A
MERE THOUSAND
FOLLOWERS.

YAN ZHUANG
SURRENDERED TO
THE TANG DYNASTY
AND WAS APPOINTED
AS MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE.





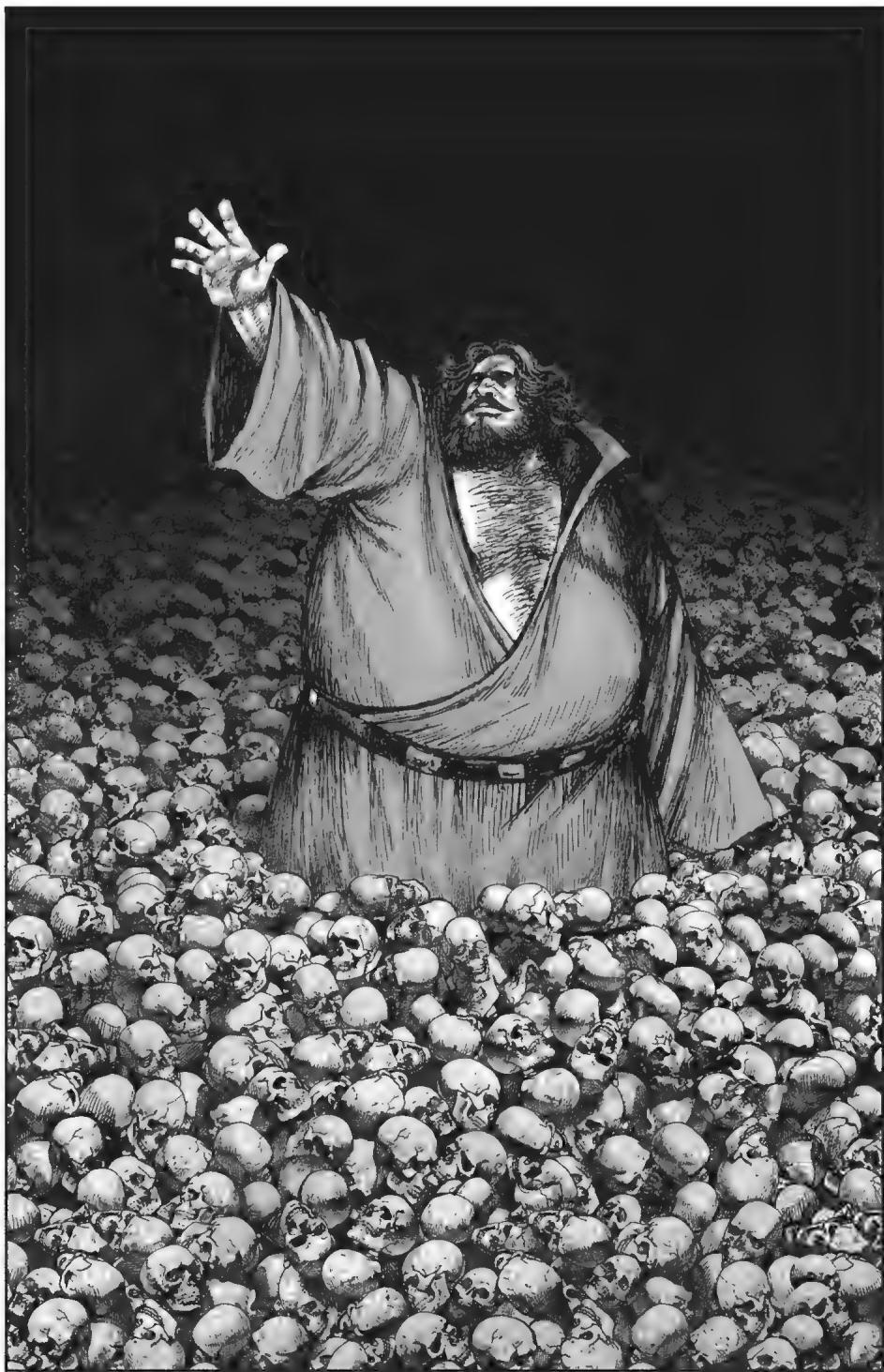




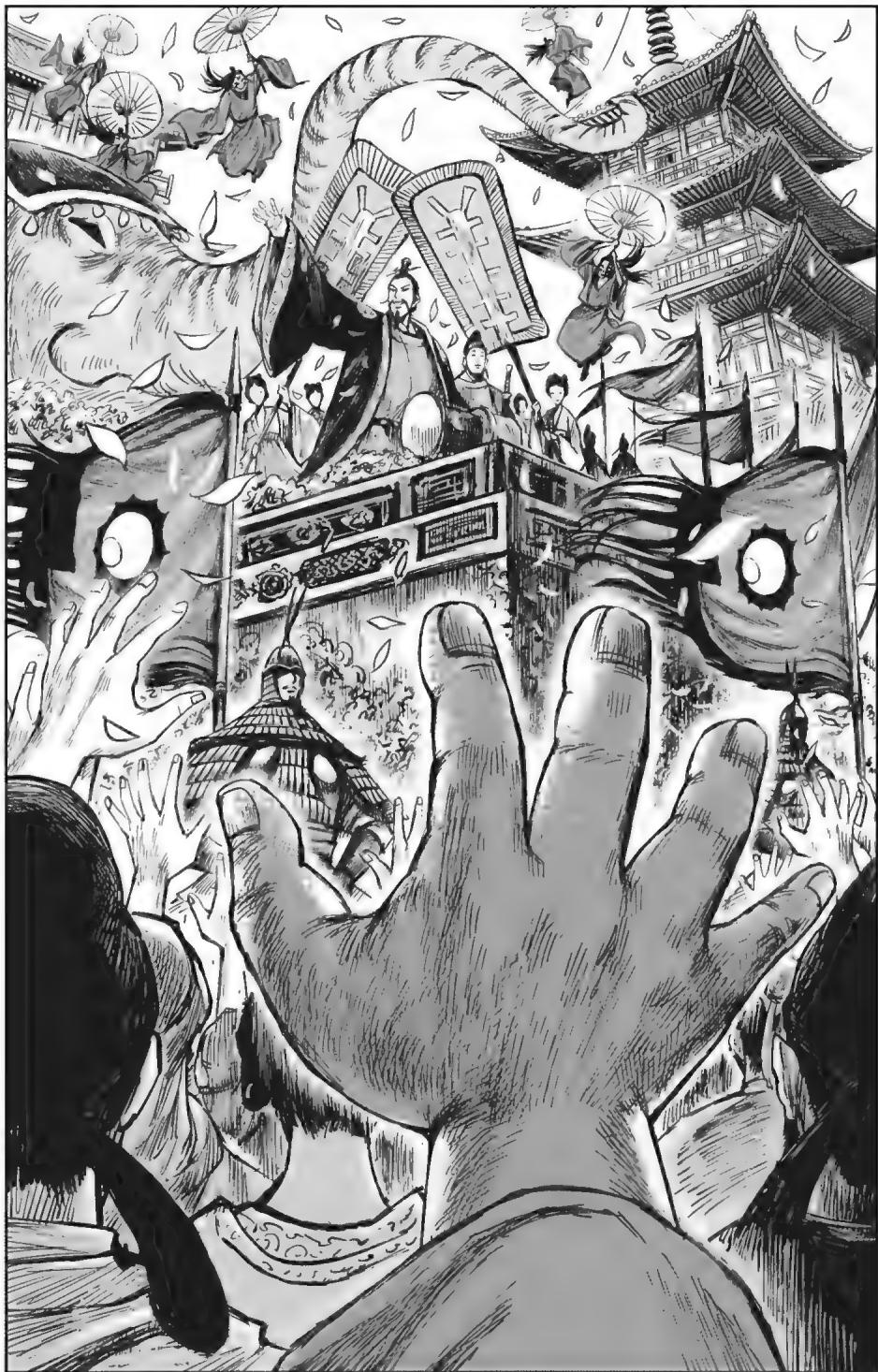


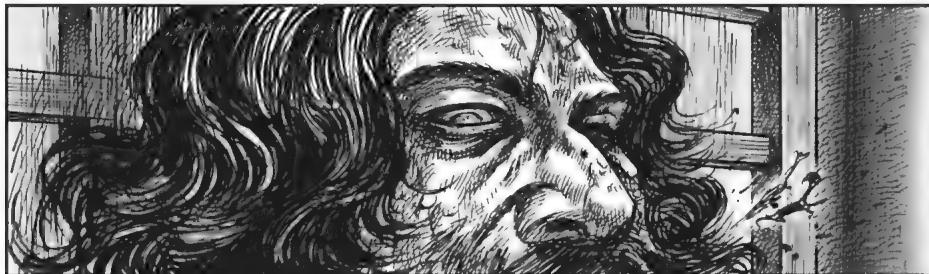












SWISH









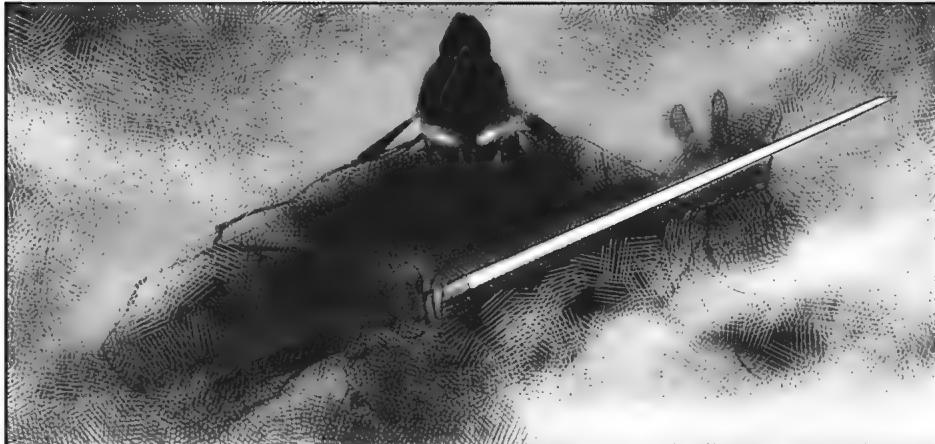


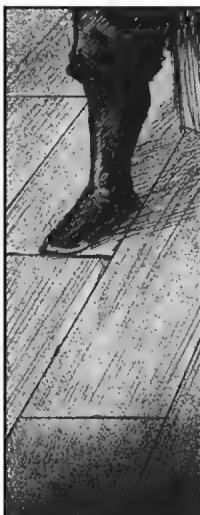






* ZHANG JIERAN: REFER TO CHAPTER THREE: THE GOLDEN TURTLES (PART ONE)

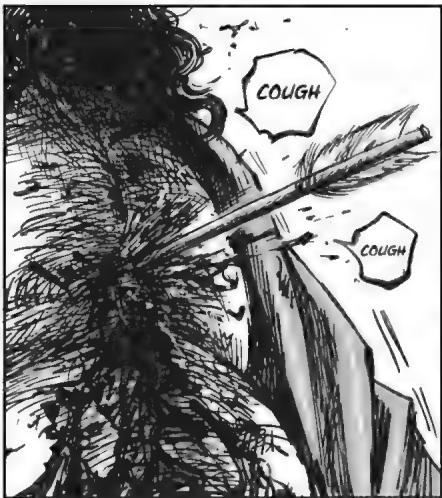






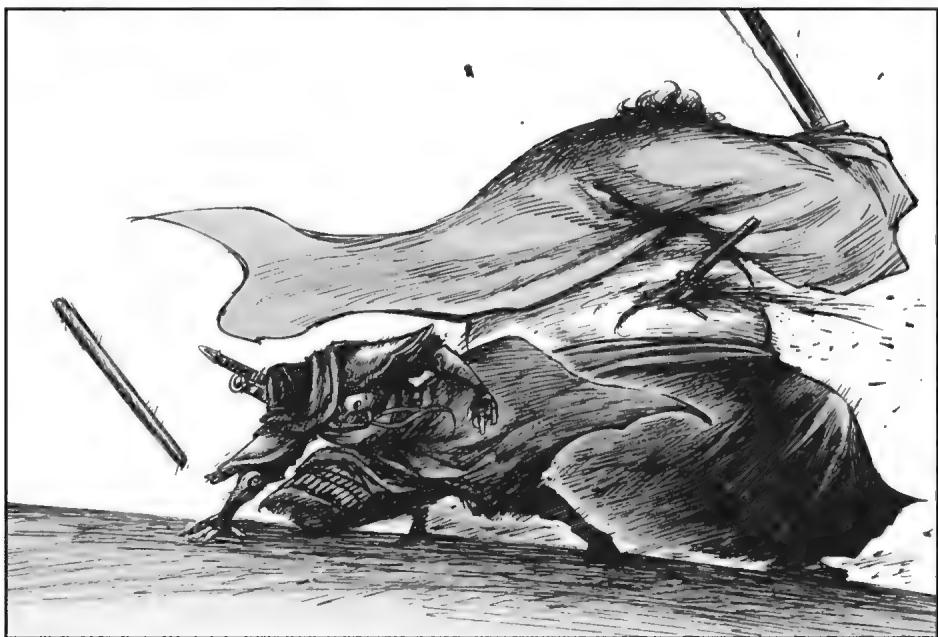










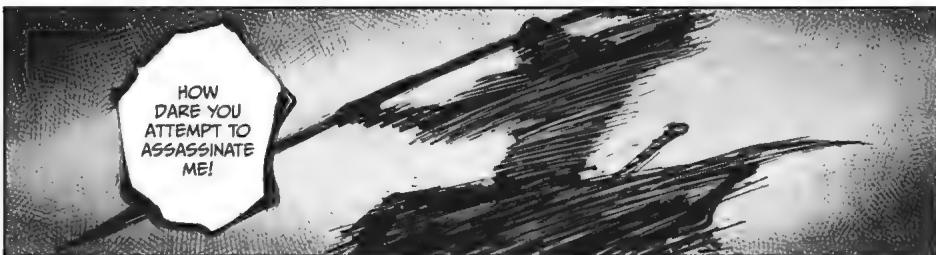




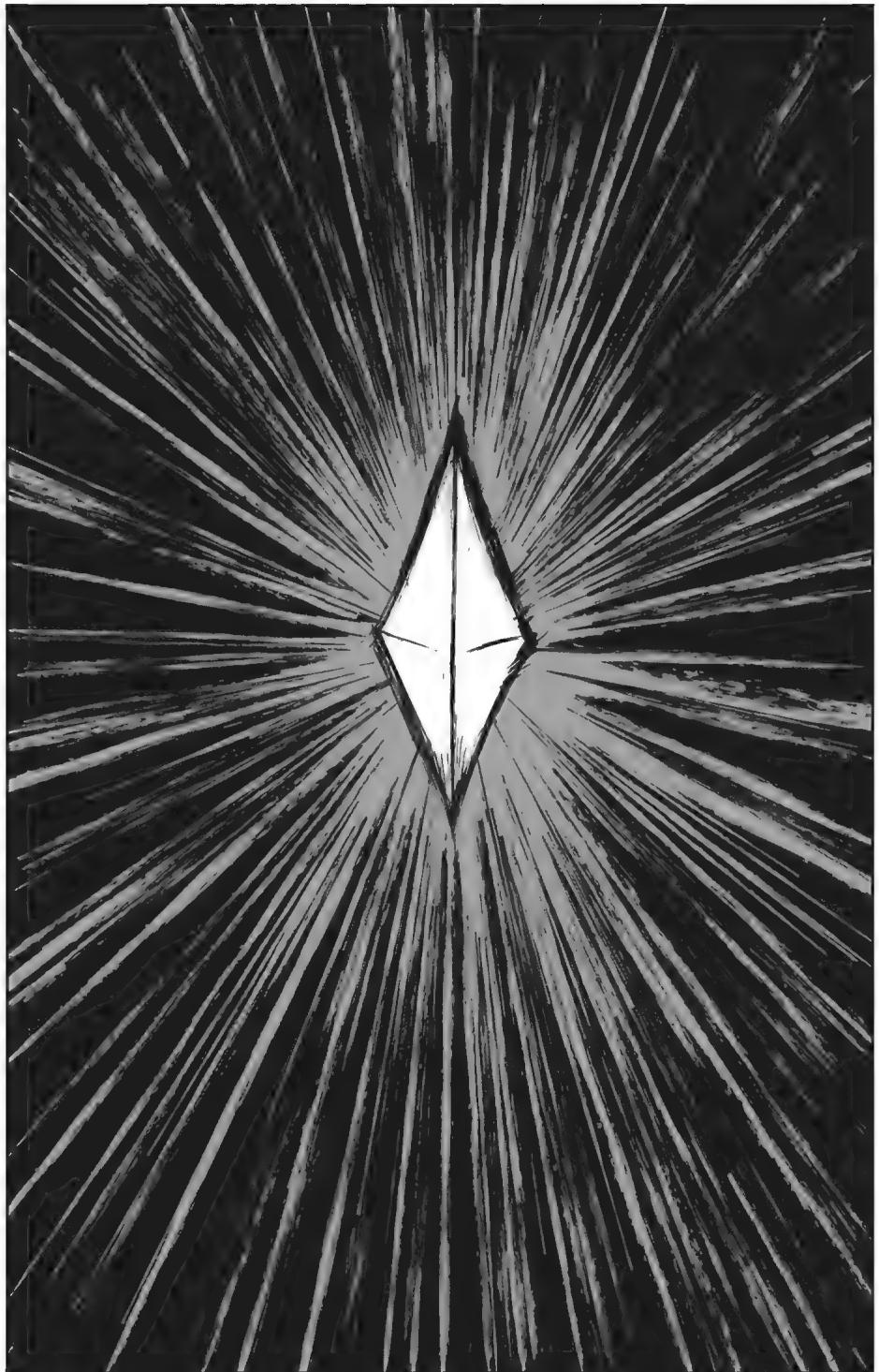








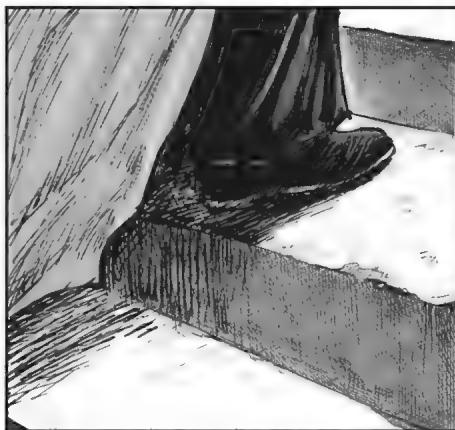


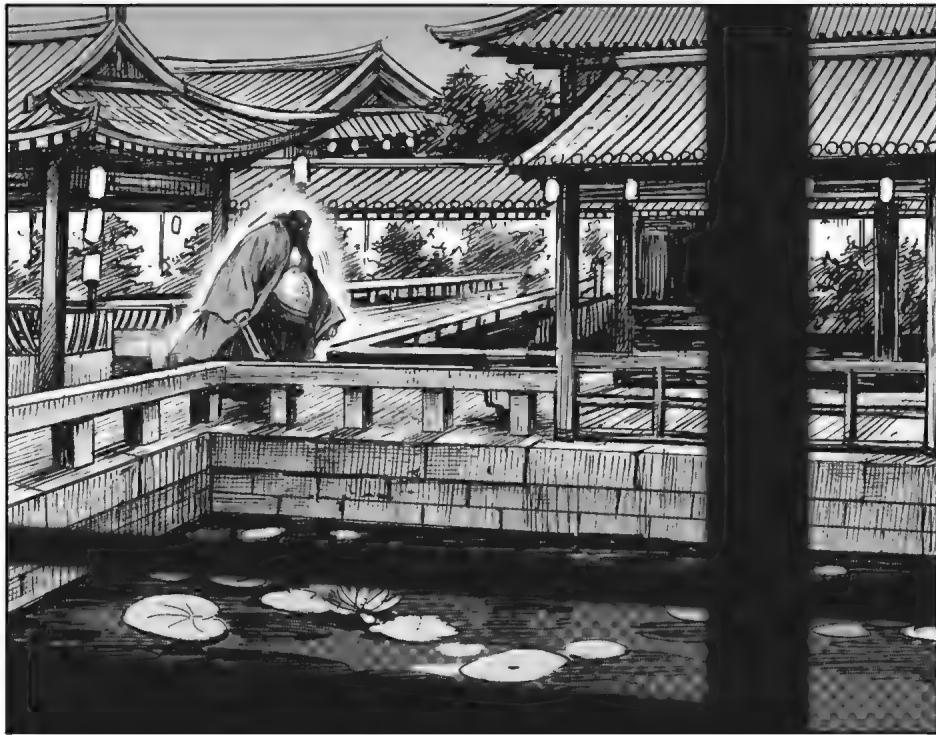


































PEAR GARDEN: A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT INSTITUTION IN THE TANG DYNASTY ESTABLISHED BY TANG XUANZONG.





* GAZING AT SPRING - DU FU







*FIVE POEMS ON MY WAY OF EXILE—LI BAI



THE ROLLING WAVES
OF THE XIANG RIVER
STRETCH INTO THE
HORIZON, GREEN REEDS
GROW STEADFASTLY.



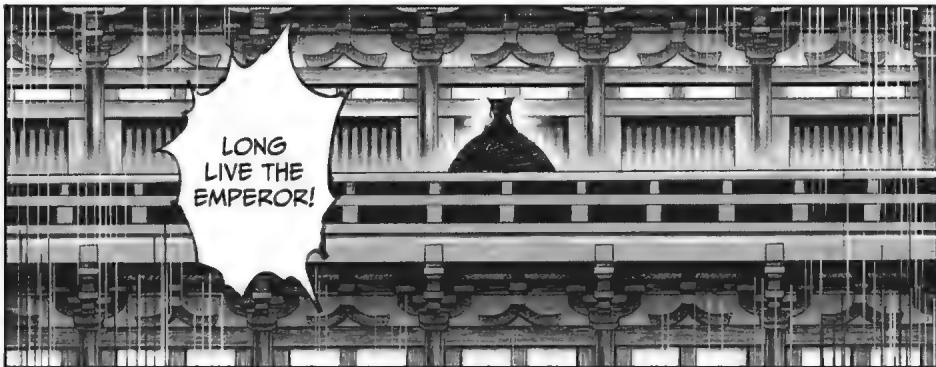
WHERE CAN MY
YEARNING FOR
HOME REST?



WEST OF THIS
GREAT RIVER, WHERE
THE SUN SETS.





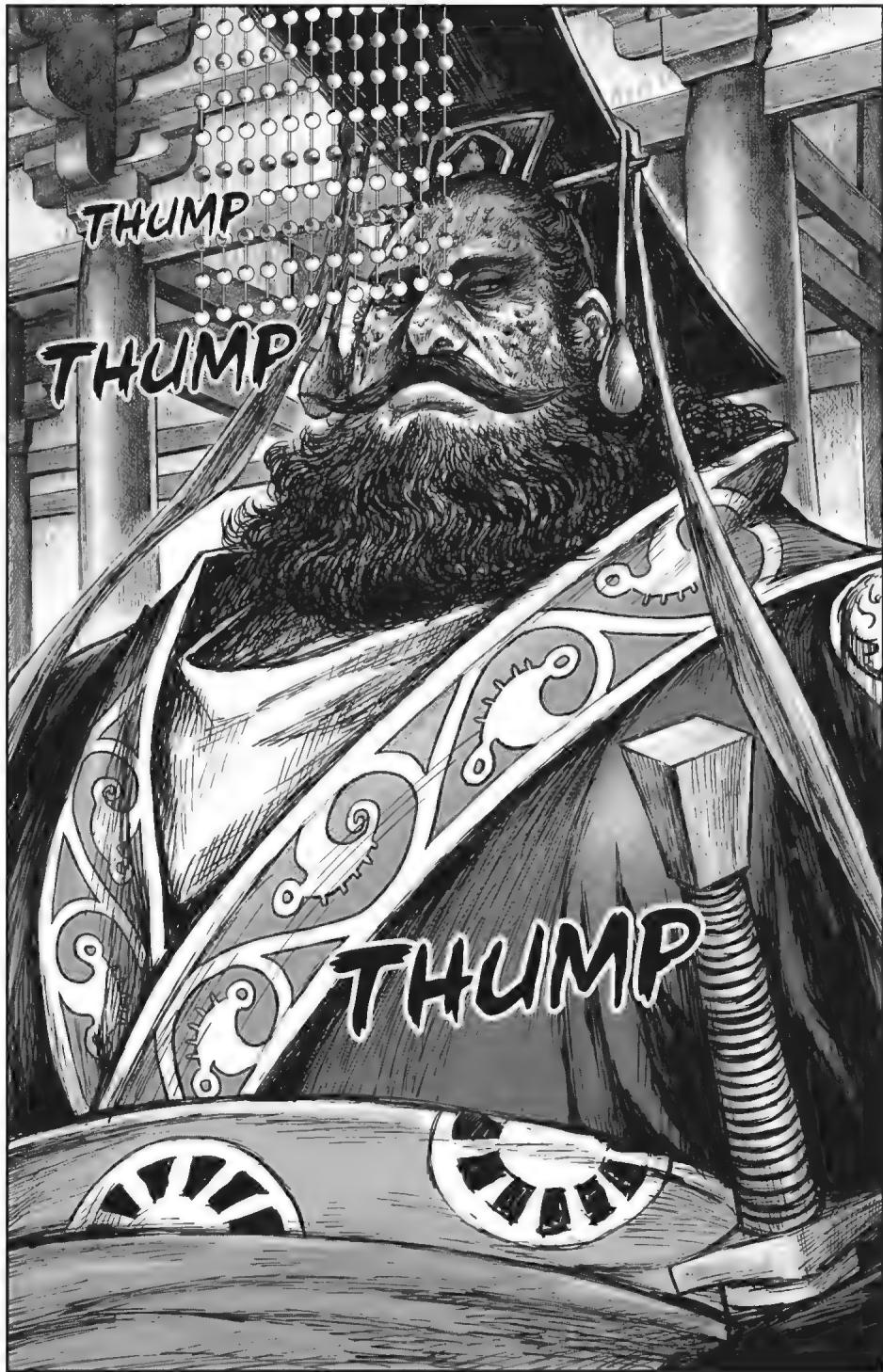


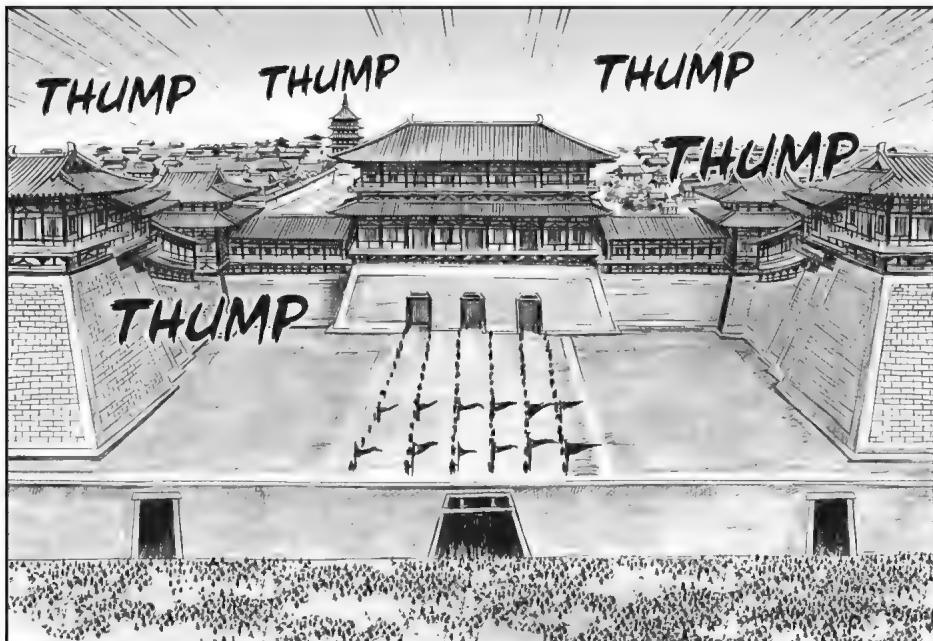
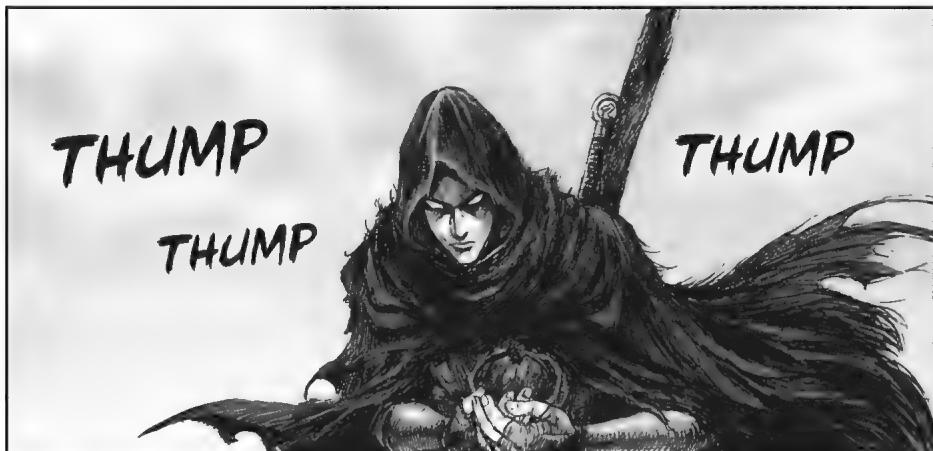


LONGEVITY
TO EMPEROR
XIONGWU!



LONG LIVE
EMPEROR
XIONGWU!

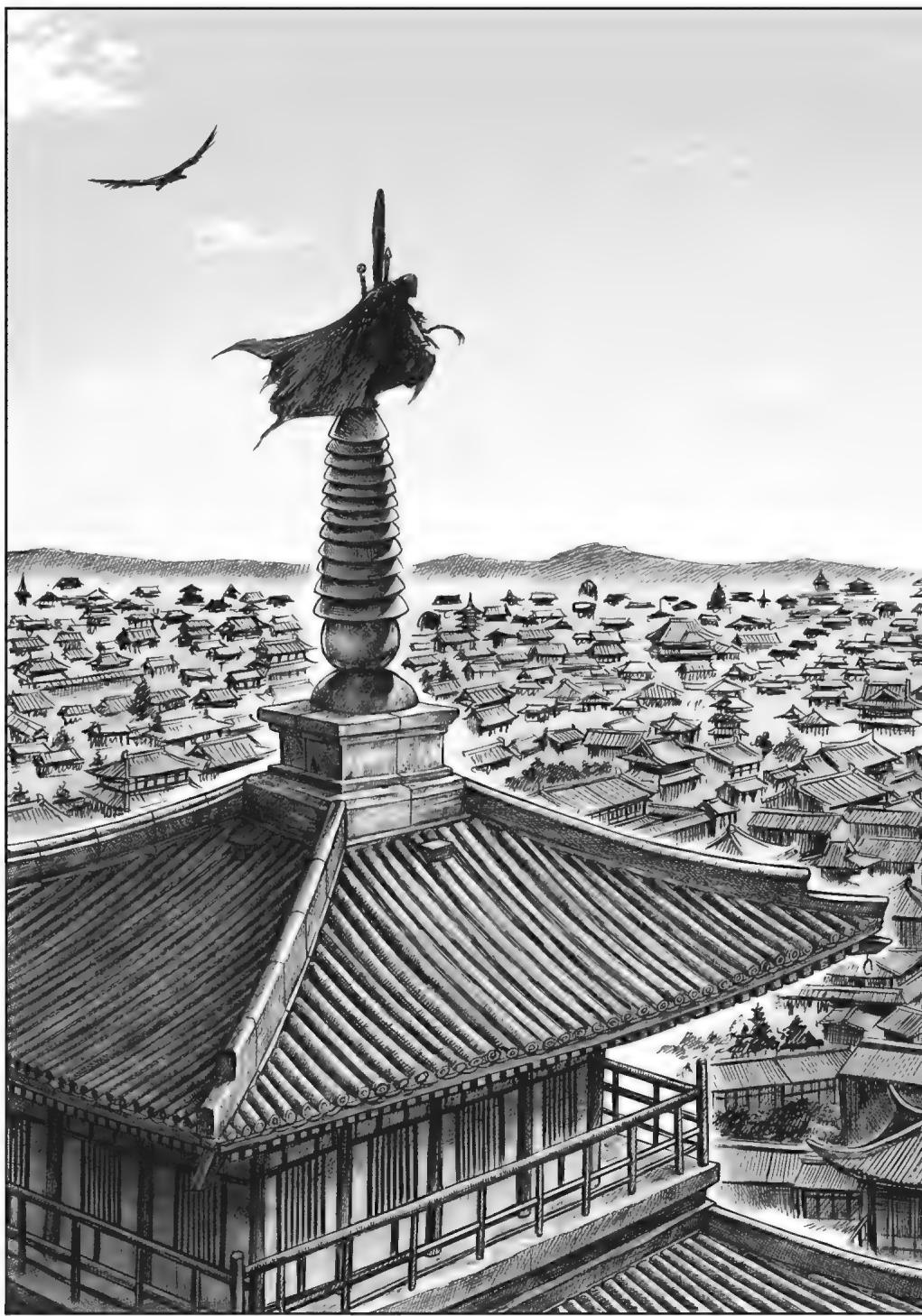




THE FIRST DAY
OF THE FIRST
MONTH WAS
AN LUSHAN'S
BIRTHDAY.

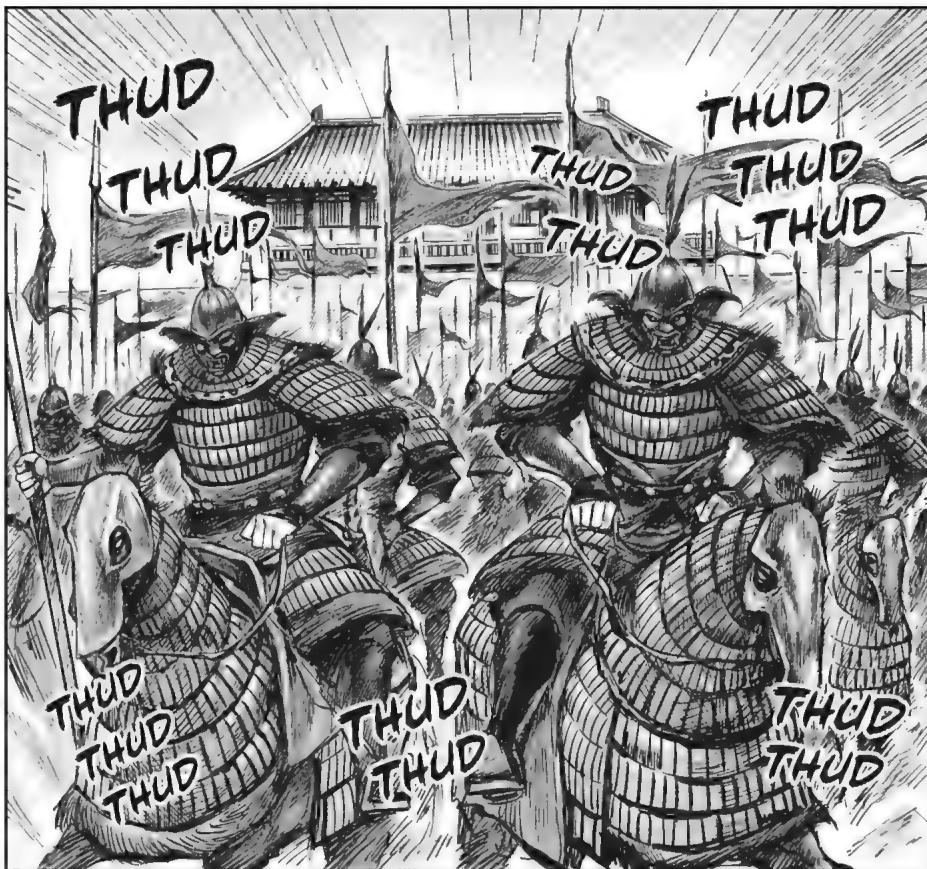
AT THIS TIME,
SHI SIMING PACIFIED
THE REGIONS NORTH
OF THE YELLOW
RIVER. THE YAN
ARMY DEFEATED
THE VANGUARD
TANG SOLDIERS AT
XIANYANG, KILLING
OVER 40,000.

TO CELEBRATE
THIS VICTORY AND
USHER IN THE NEW
YEAR, AN LUSHAN
OPENED THE PALACE
GATES AND ALLOWED
CIVILIANS TO ENTER
THE IMPERIAL
COURT TO PAY
THEIR RESPECTS.



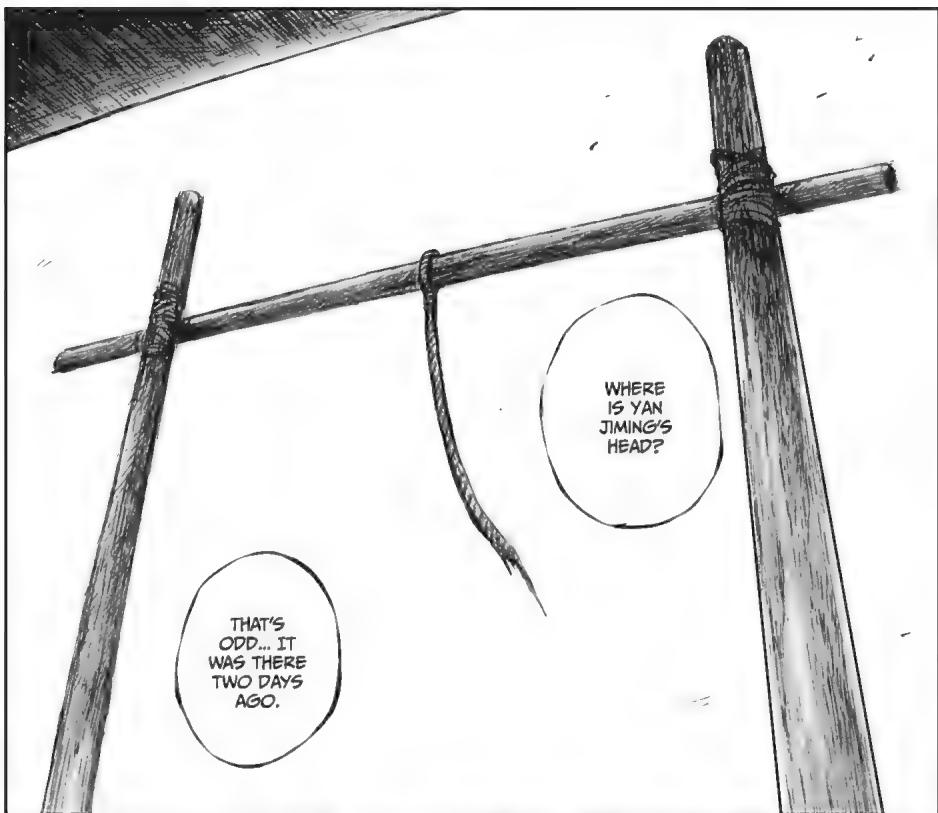
757 A.D. THE
FIRST DAY OF
THE FIRST MONTH
LUOYANG





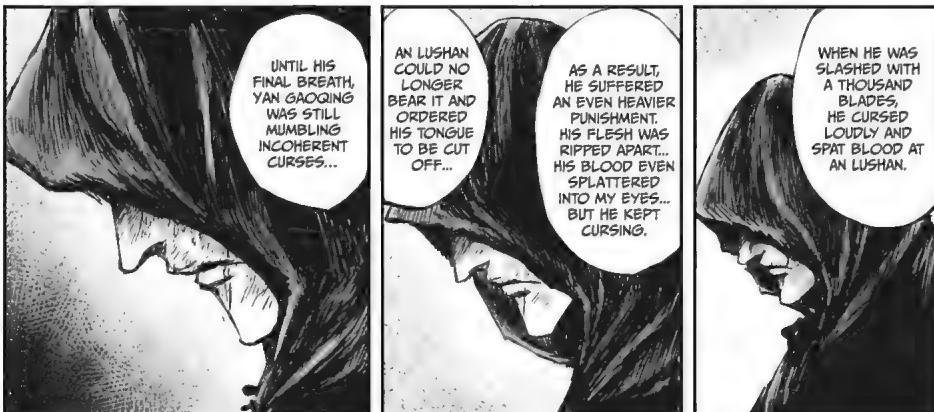
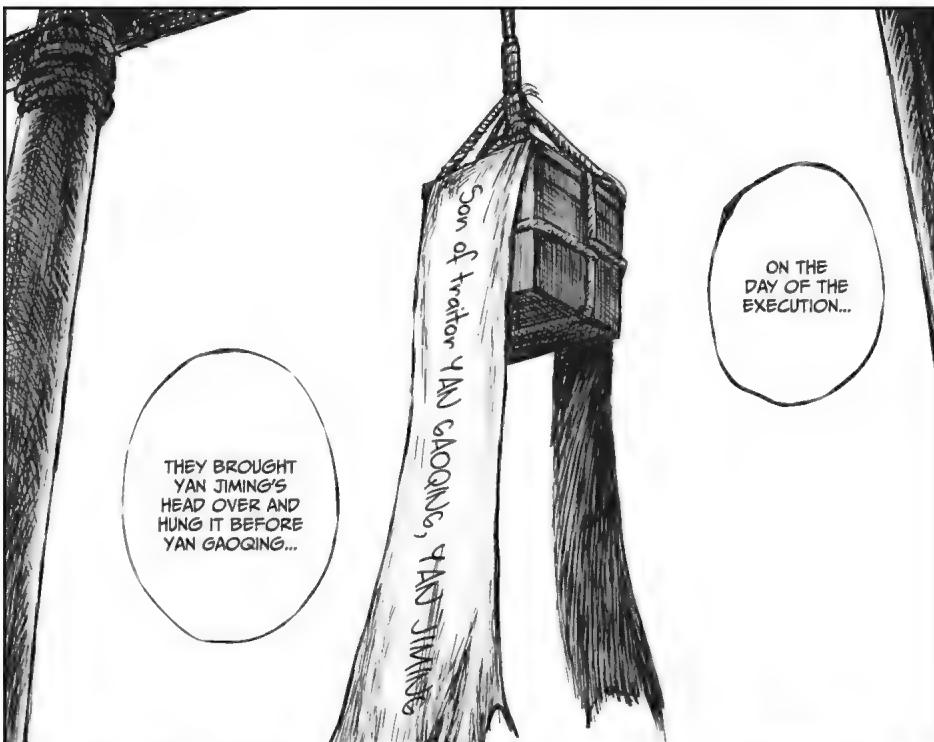


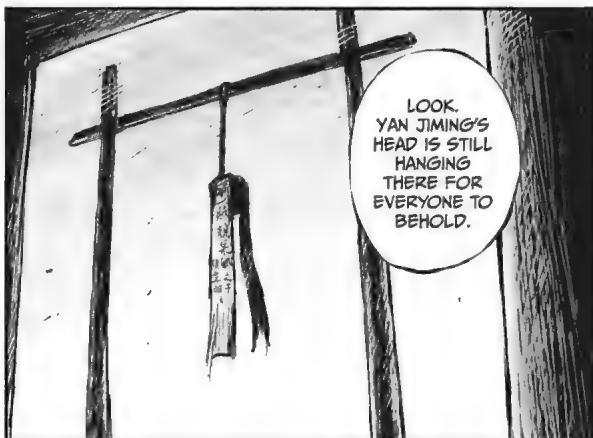








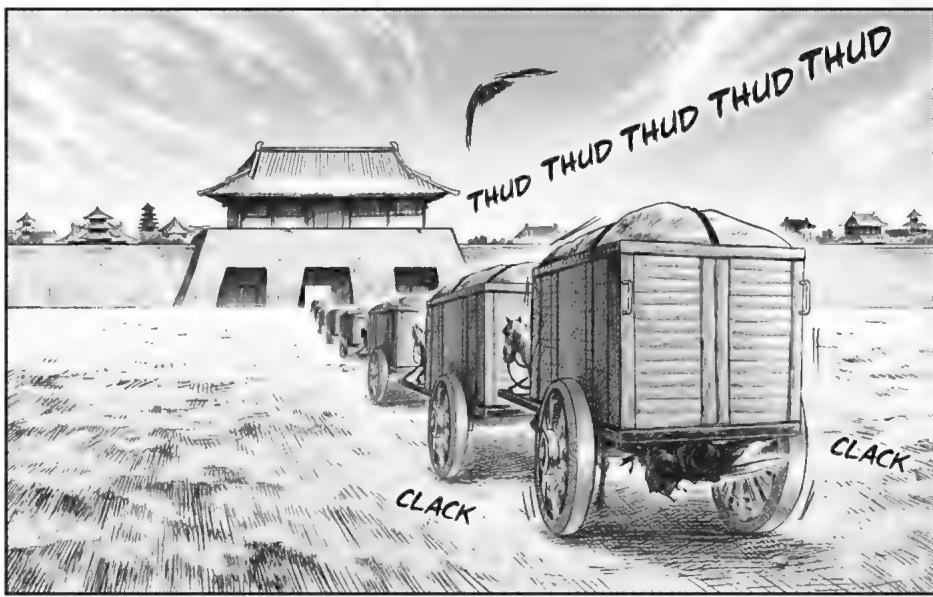
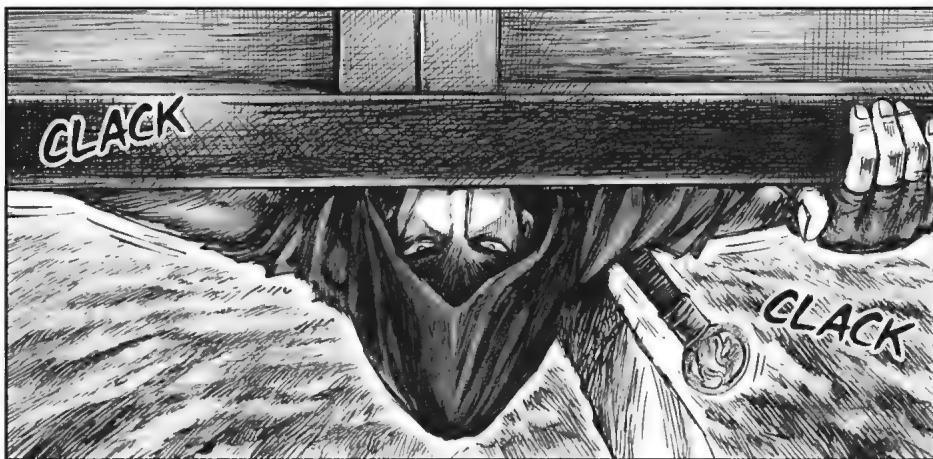


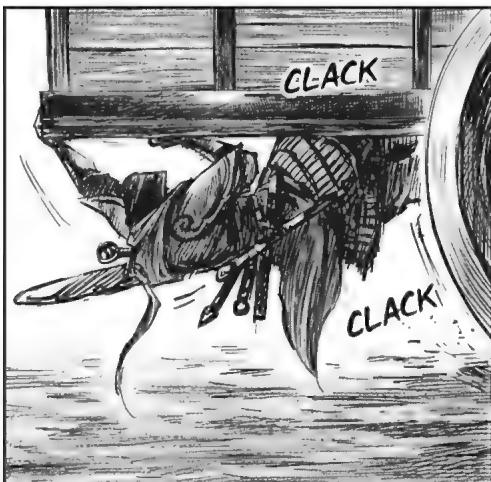






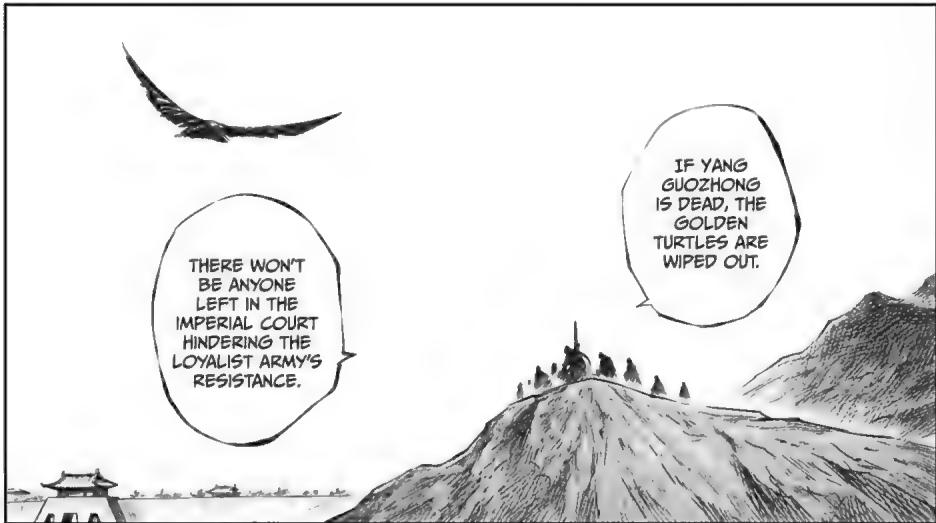




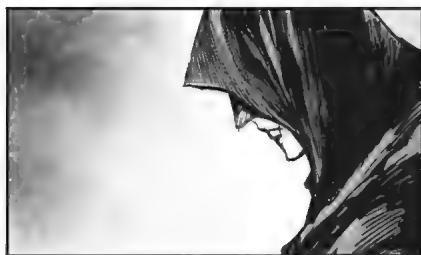












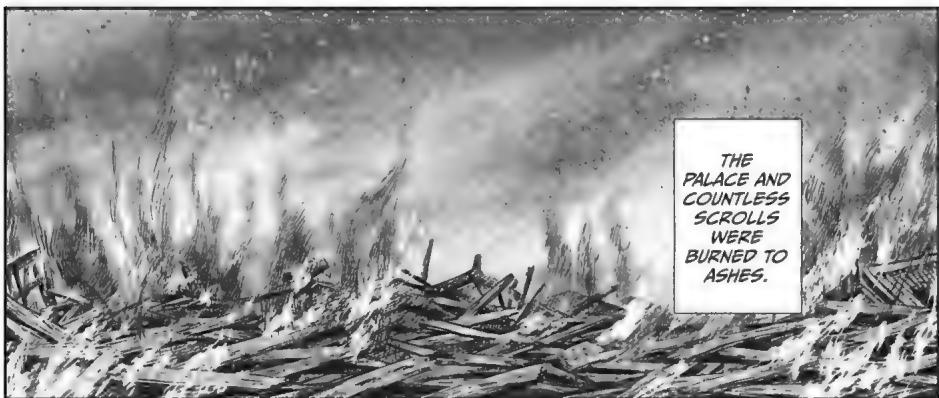


THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVIII



THE CAPITAL OF
DAYAN KINGDOM...







HIS IRON
MACE,
DРИPPING
WITH BLOOD,
STAINED THE
STREETS.



756 A.D. THE
SEVENTEENTH DAY
OF THE SEVENTH
MONTH, THE DAY
OF JIAWU.

THE CITY OF
CH'ANG'AN WAS
ABLAZE.





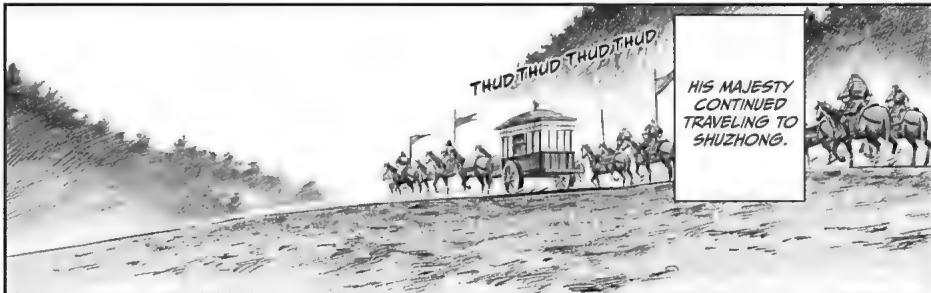
TANG HOLLOW BIRD AND GRAPE PATTERNED SILVER FRAGRANCE SACHET
(COLLECTION OF TANG YI GOLD AND SILVER MUSEUM OF LUO YANG)

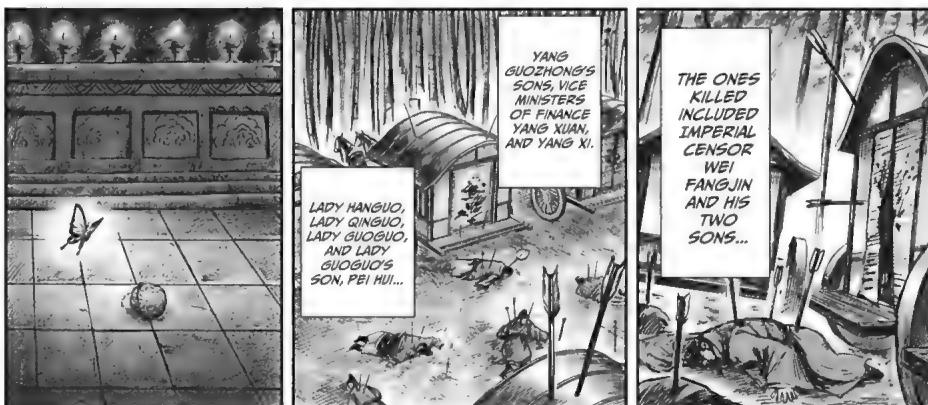
THE EMPEROR HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE AN EDICT FOR THE IMPERIAL CONSOFT TO BE HANGED IN THE PRAYER HALL. AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-EIGHT, SHE WAS BURIED WEST OF THE POST ROAD.

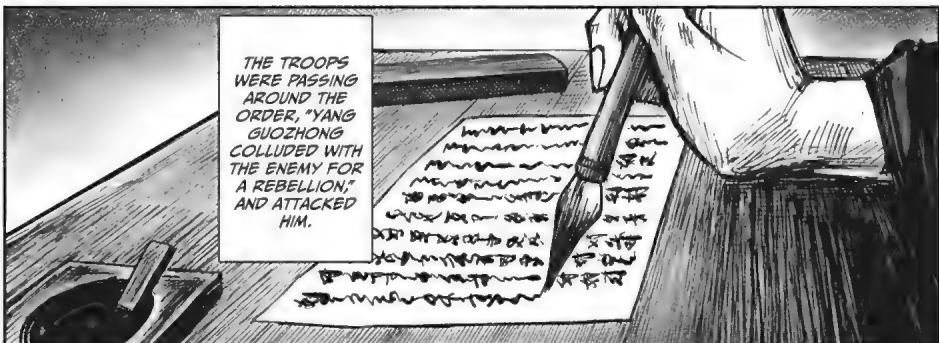
THEN THE EMPEROR RETURNED FROM SHUZHONG AND ORDERED THE IMPERIAL ENVOYS TO CONDUCT A REBURIAL. DURING THE FIRST BURIAL, SHE WAS BOUND IN PURPLE CLOTH AND HER SKIN WAS ALREADY DAMAGED, YET THE SACHET REMAINED!

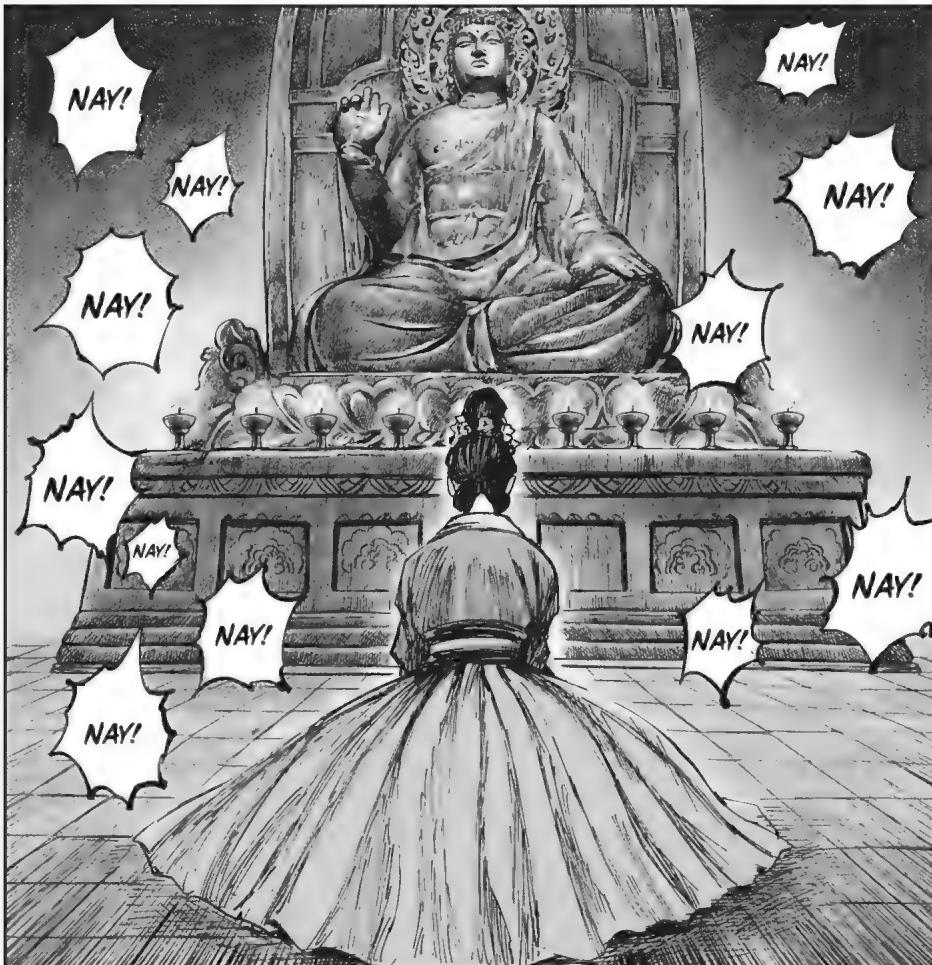
—OLD BOOK OF TANG, SCROLL FIFTY-ONE, BIOGRAPHIES ONE: YANG GUIFBI

AT THIS POINT,
THE YANG FAMILY
HAD PERISHED.









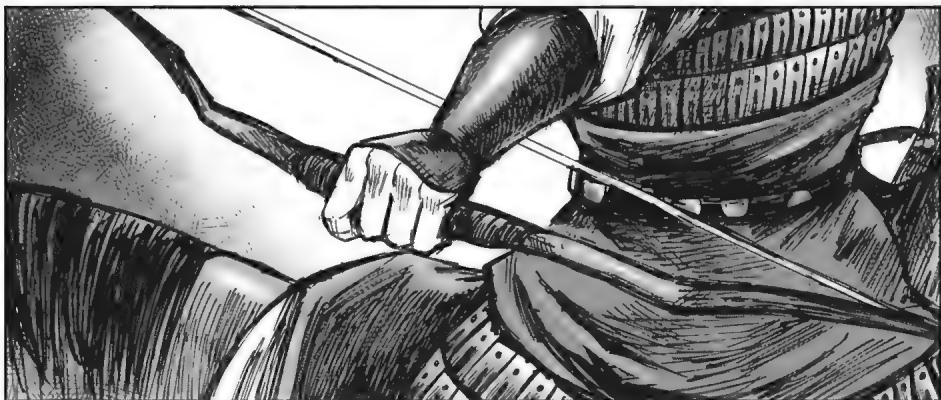






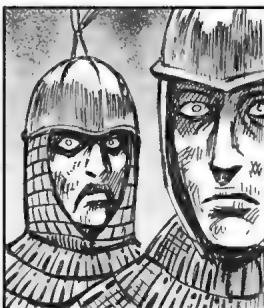


BANG











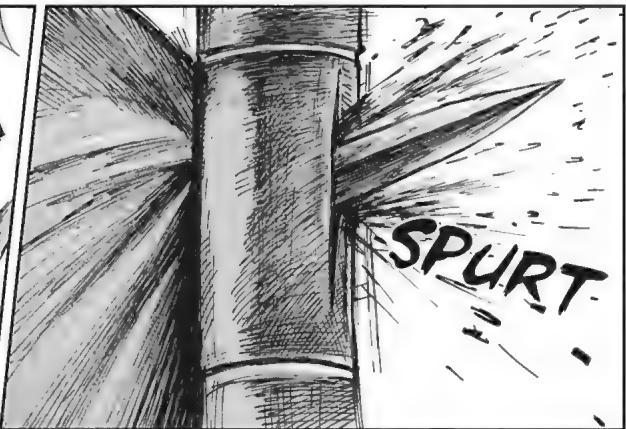




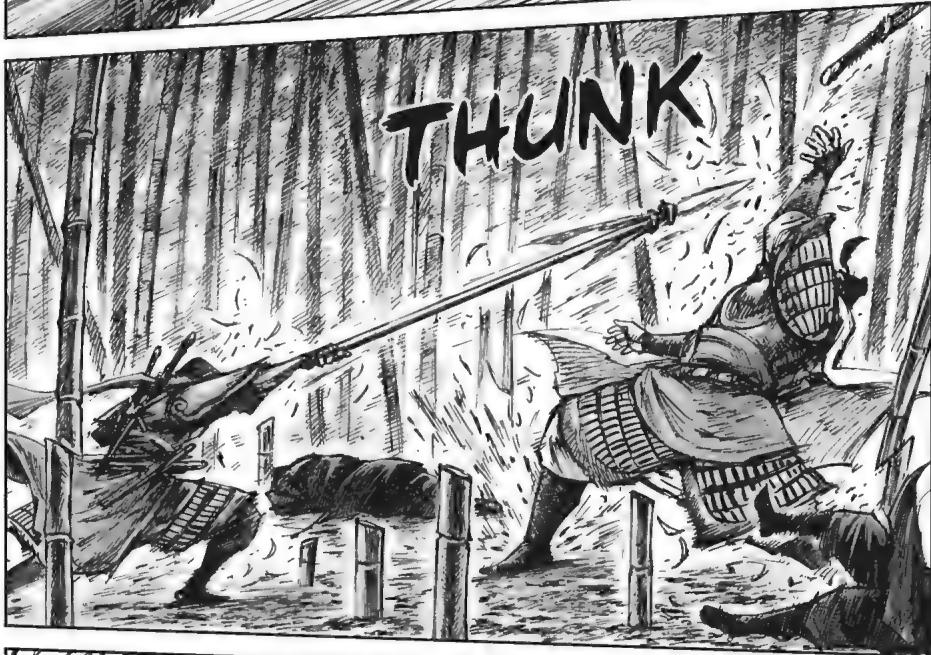






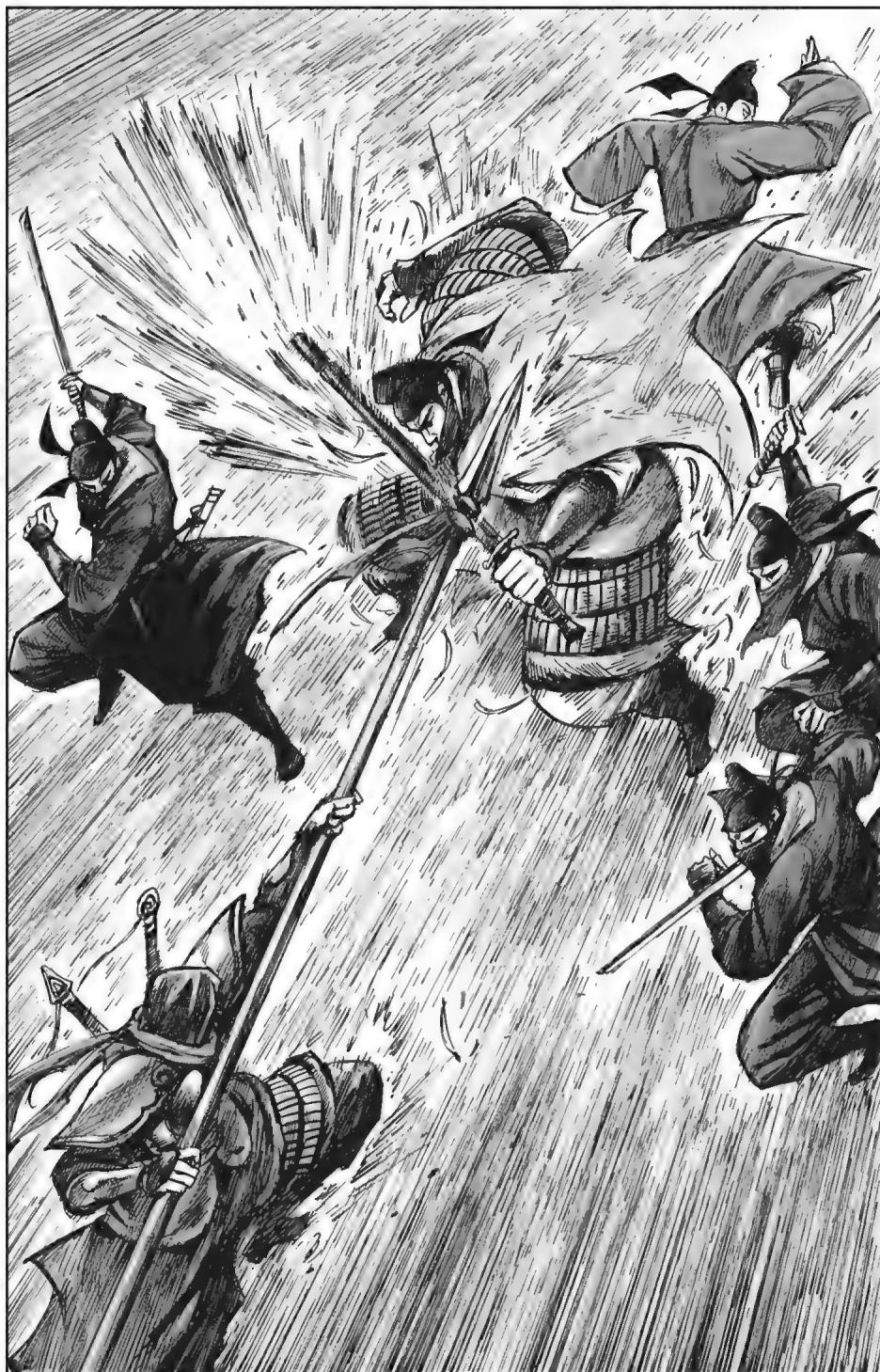


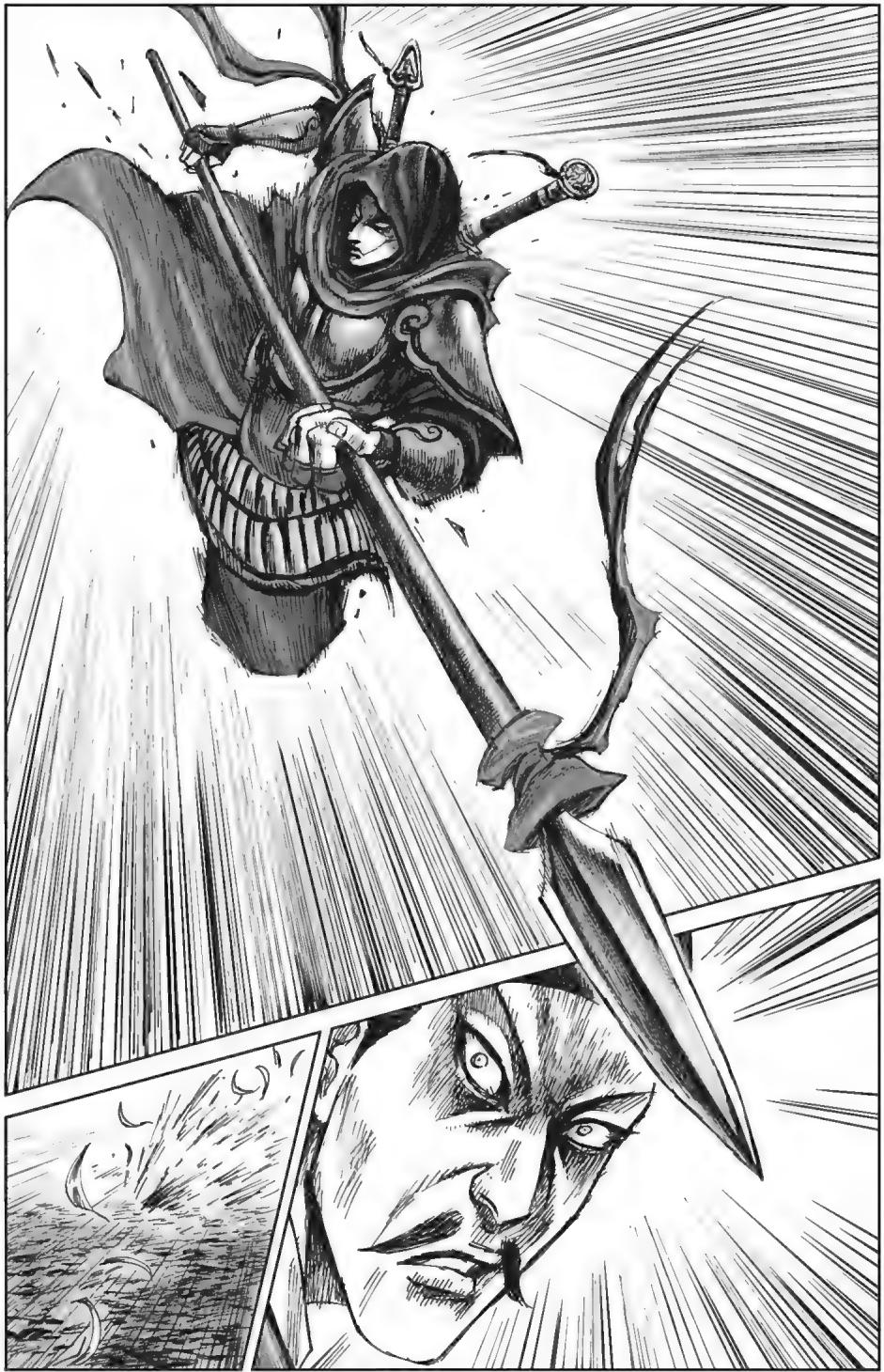








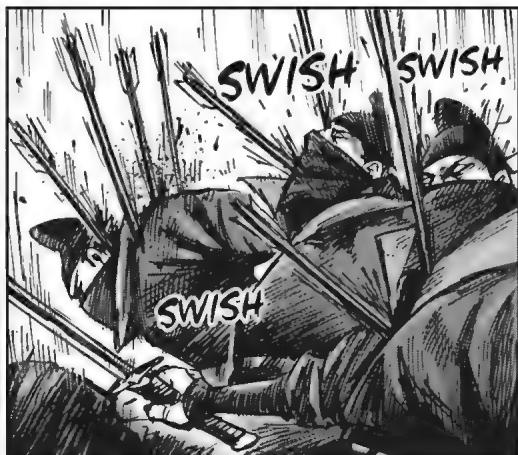




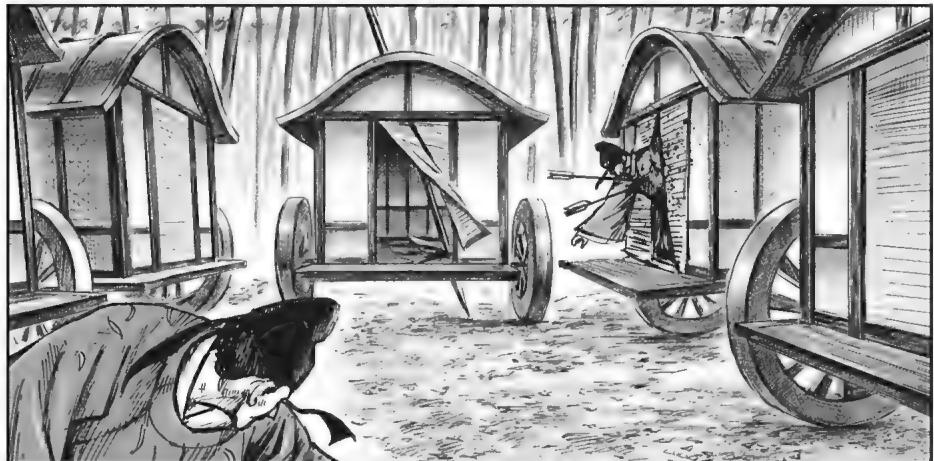
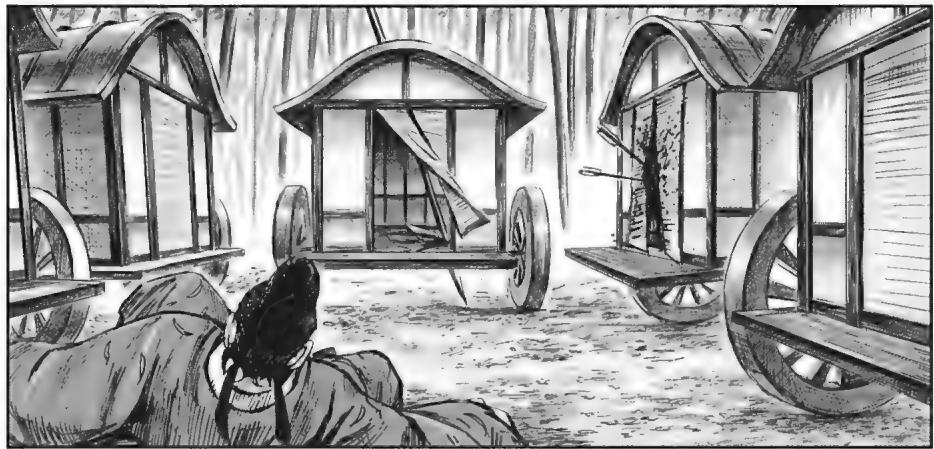
















CRASH!











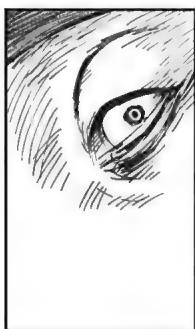


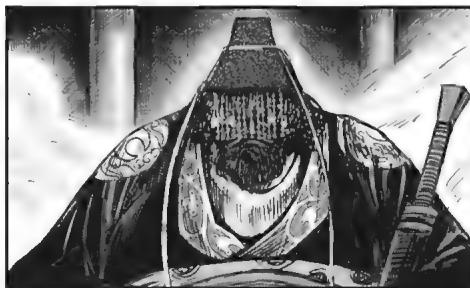


SWISH!



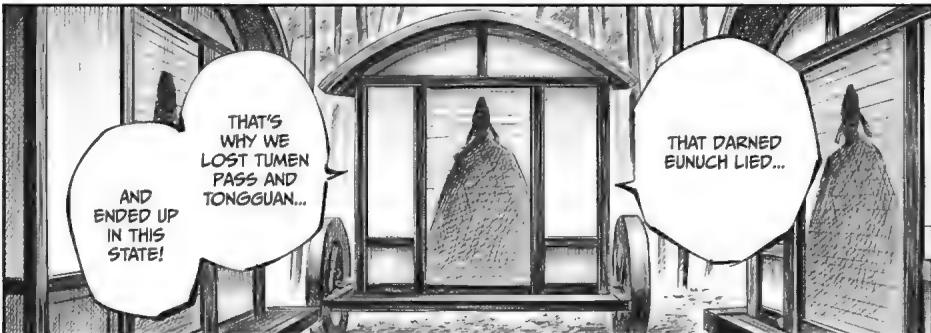


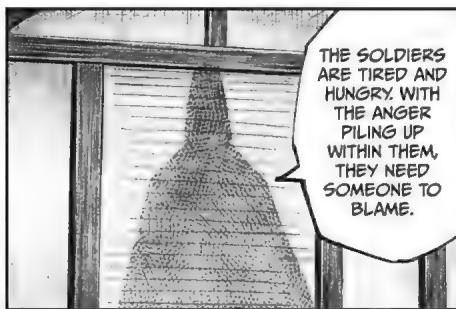












THE DAY OF BINGCHEN
OF THE SIX MONTH
(FOURTEENTH)

MA WEI YI

I HAVE
SPOKEN
ABOUT AN
LUSHAN'S
REBELLION
FOR TEN
YEARS...

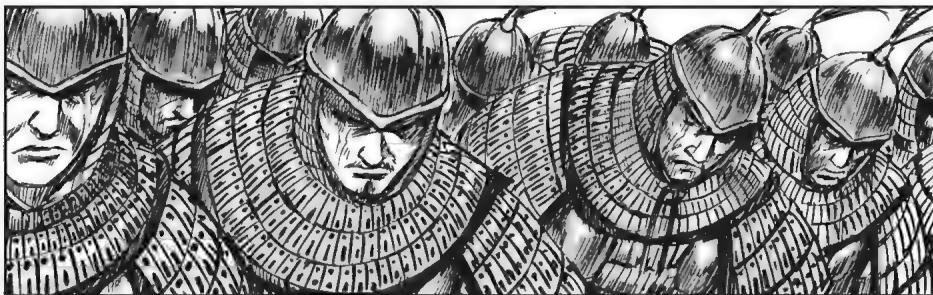
HIS MAJESTY
SIMPLY
REFUSED TO
BELIEVE ME.

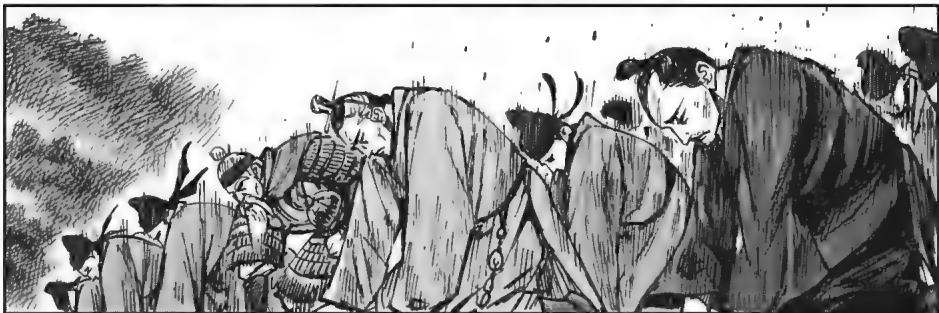
THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVII











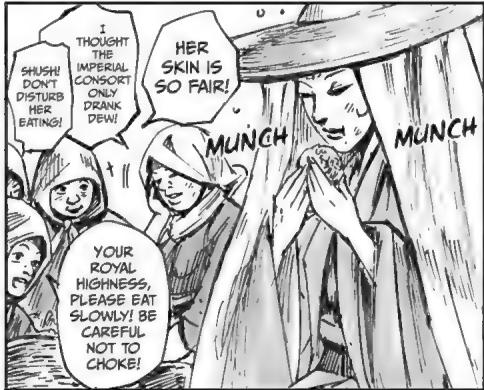
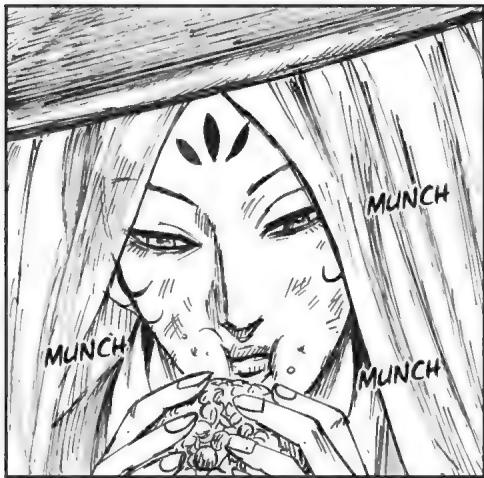


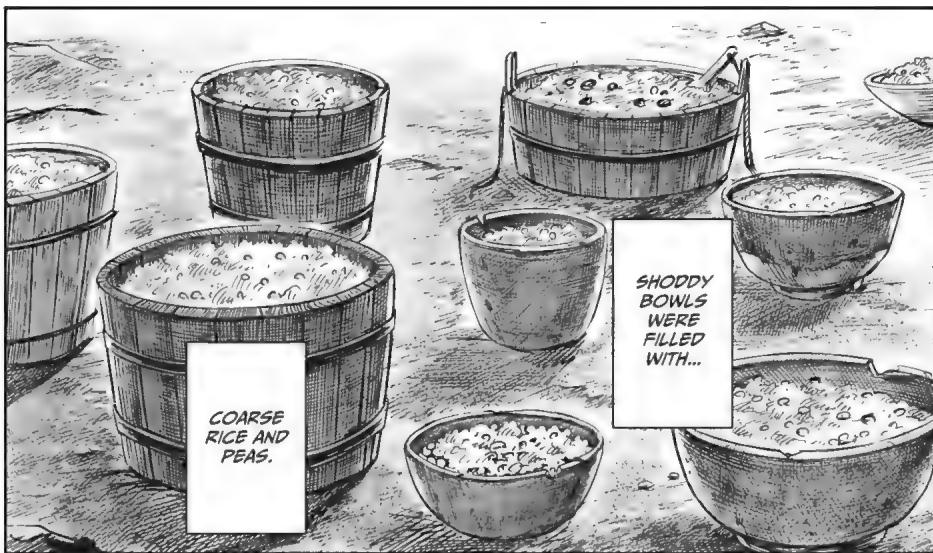




*PASSAGE: A TRAVEL PERMIT OF THE TANG DYNASTY

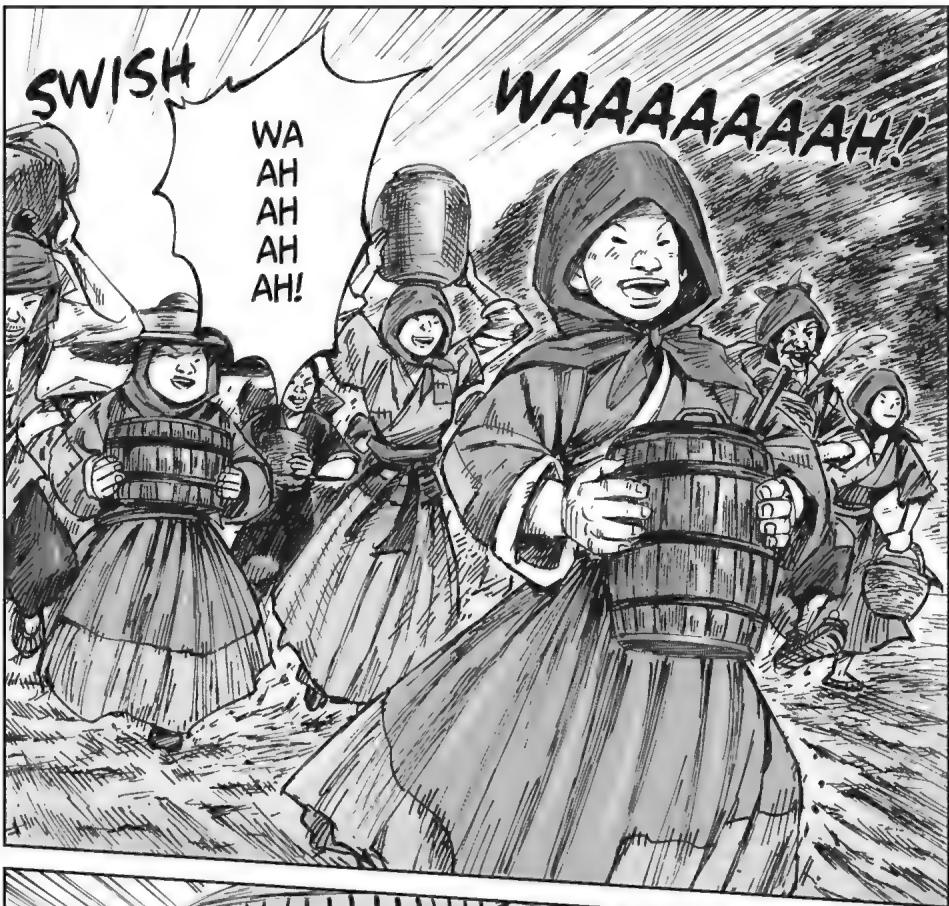






*COARSE RICE: BROWN RICE.









YANG ZHAO: YANG GUOZHONG'S REAL NAME. 'GUOZHONG' IS THE NAME GIVEN BY EMPEROR XUANZONG.



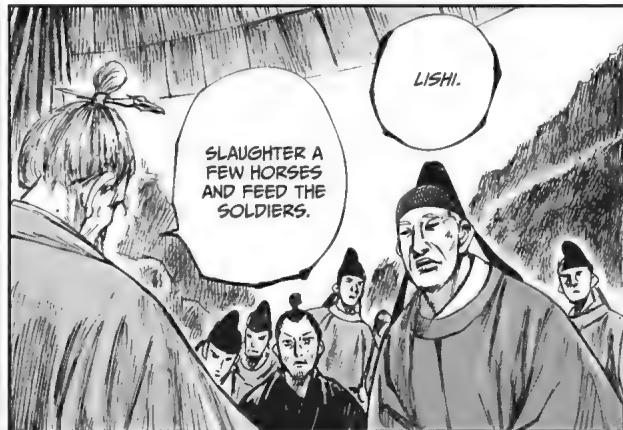


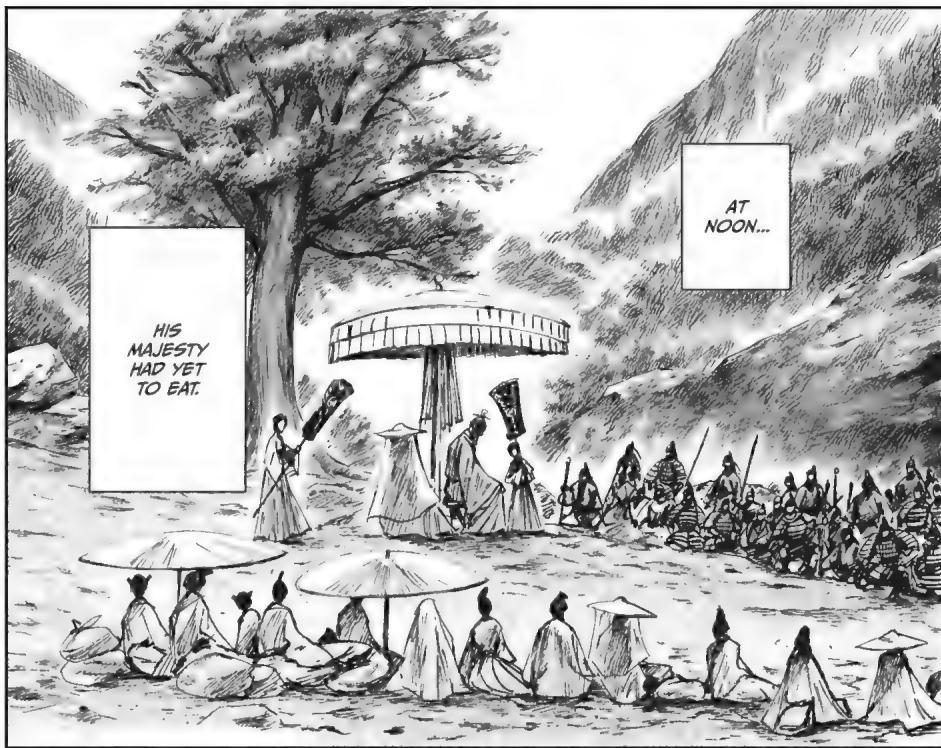


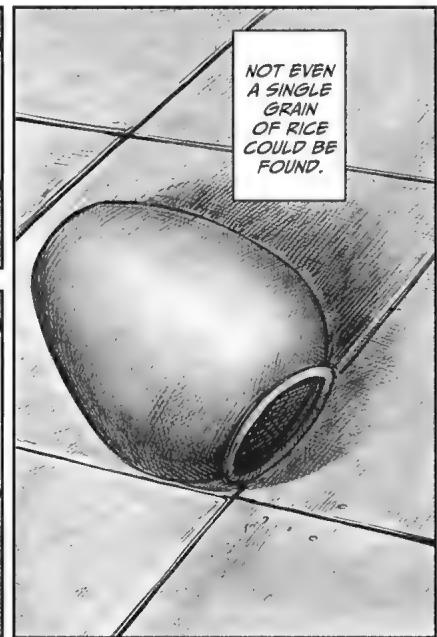








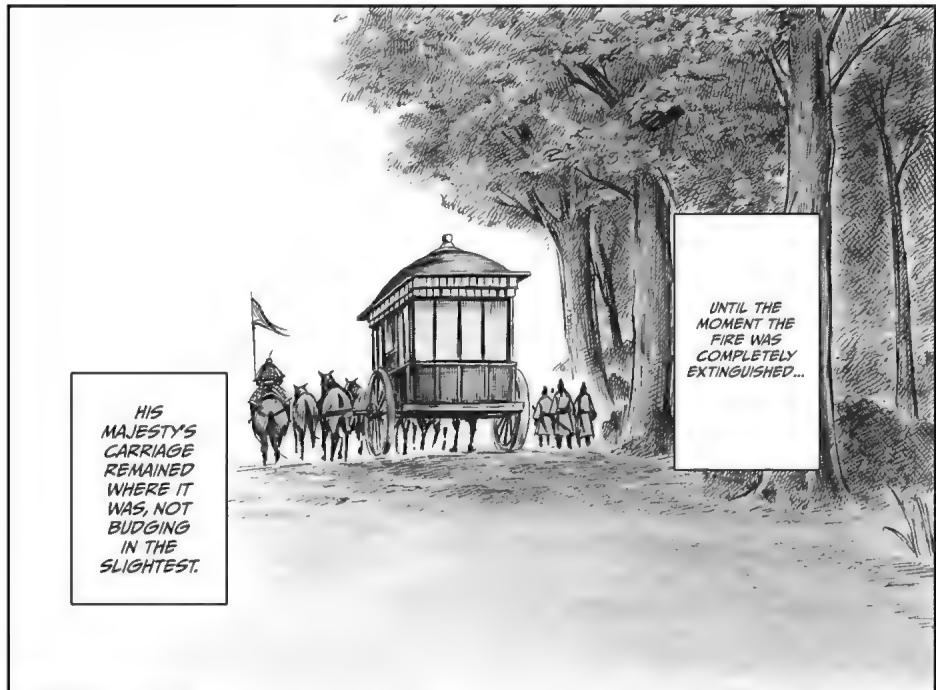




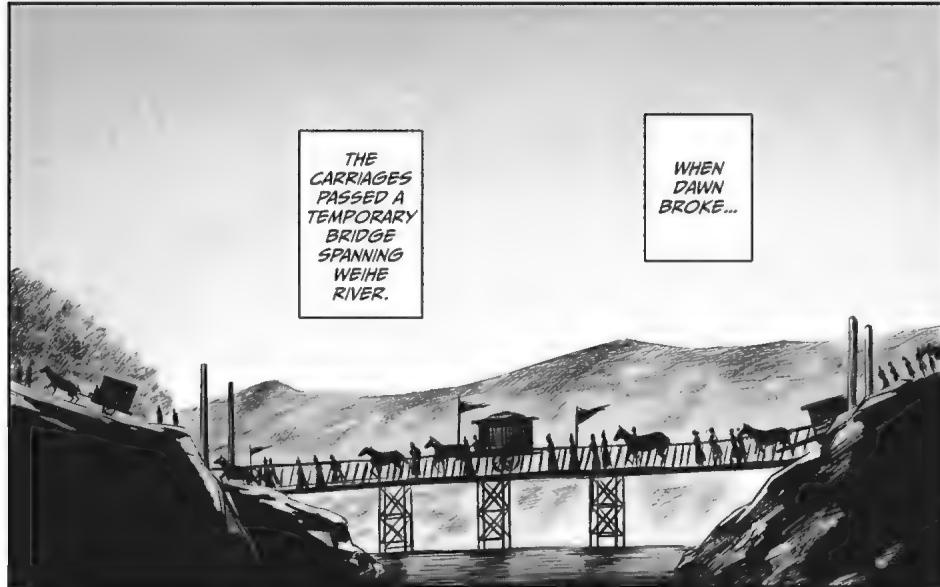


*THE HOUR OF CHEN: 8 A.M. - 10 A.M.







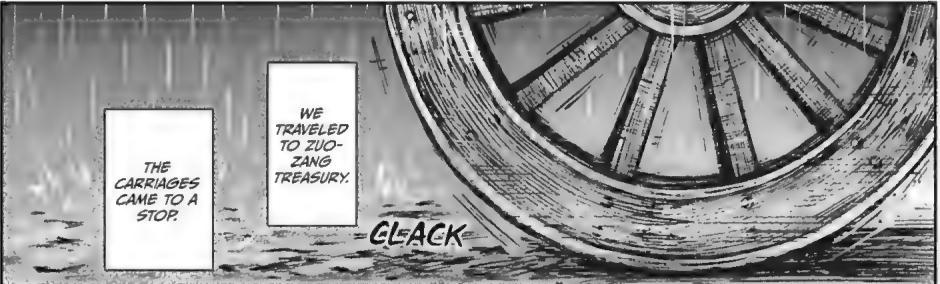








I WONDER...
HOW HIS
MAJESTY
IS FEELING
RIGHT NOW.



THE
CARRIAGES
CAME TO A
STOP.

WE
TRAVELED
TO ZUO-
ZANG
TREASURY.

CLACK



WHY
HAVE WE
STOPPED?



YOUR
MAJESTY.
PLEASE
ALLOW A
SLIGHT
HALT.



GUOZHONG.







OUR
ENTOURAGE
LEFT CHANG'AN.

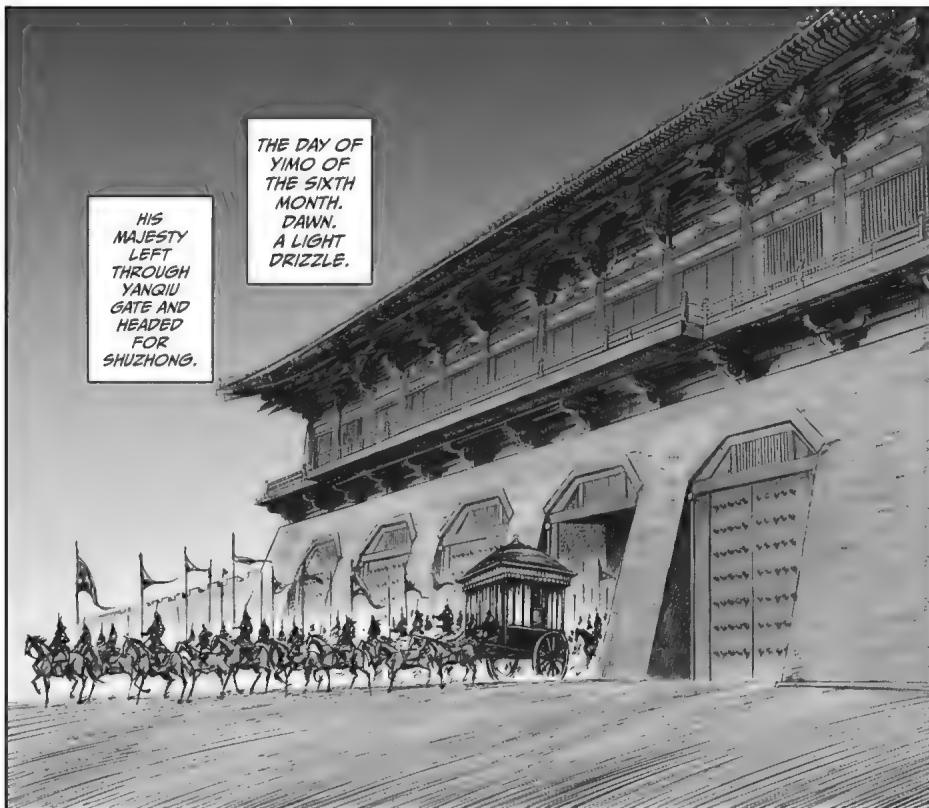
UNDER THE
ESCORT OF
2,000 IMPERIAL
GUARDS...

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVI



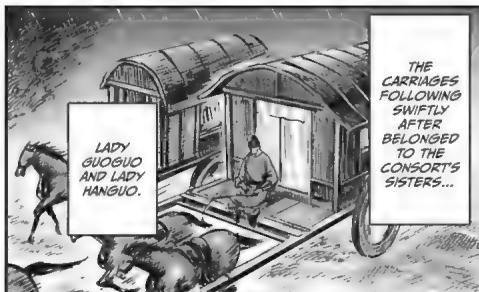
HIS
MAJESTY
LEFT
THROUGH
YANQIU
GATE AND
HEADED
FOR
SHUZHONG.

THE DAY OF
YIMO OF
THE SIXTH
MONTH.
DAWN.
A LIGHT
DRIZZLE.

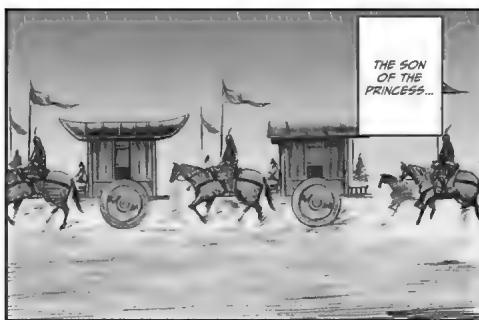


LADY
GUOBUD
AND LADY
HANGUO.

THE
CARRIAGES
FOLLOWING
SWIFTLY
AFTER
BELONGED
TO THE
CONSORT'S
SISTERS...

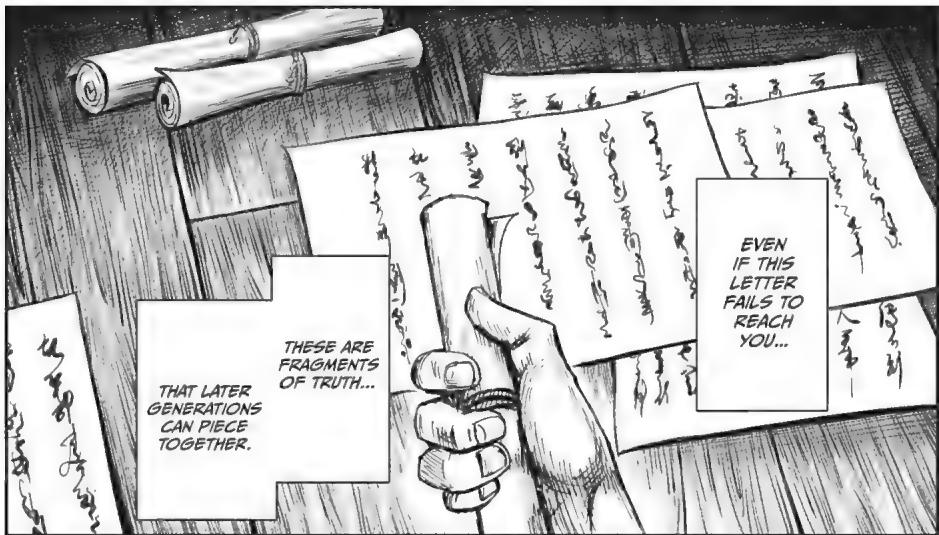


THE SON
OF THE
PRINCESS...



INSIDE THE
IMPERIAL
CARRIAGES
WERE HIS
MAJESTY
AND THE
IMPERIAL
CONSORT.

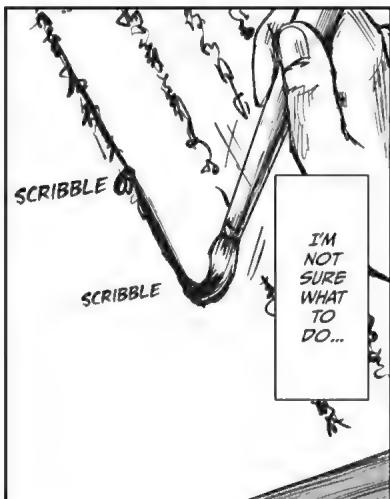






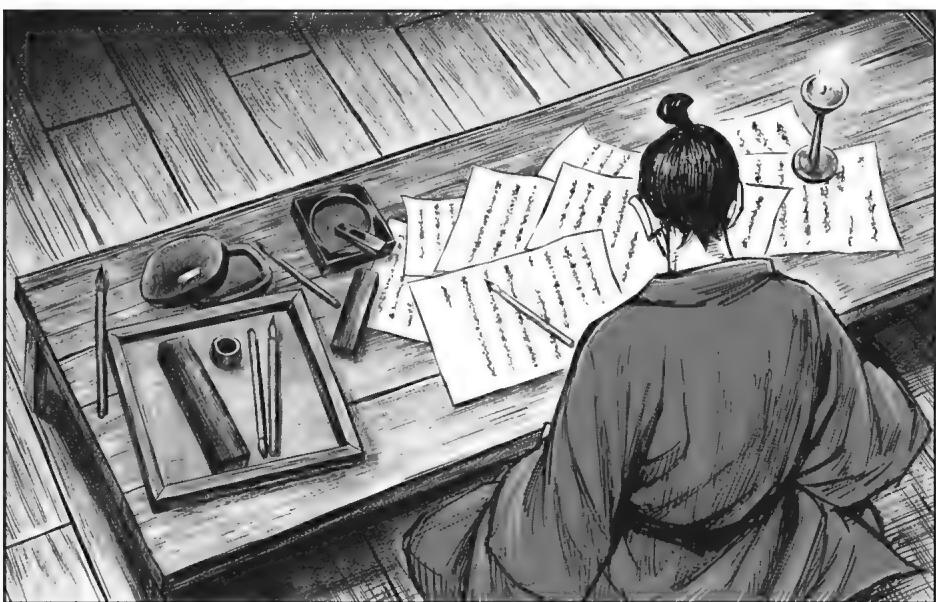
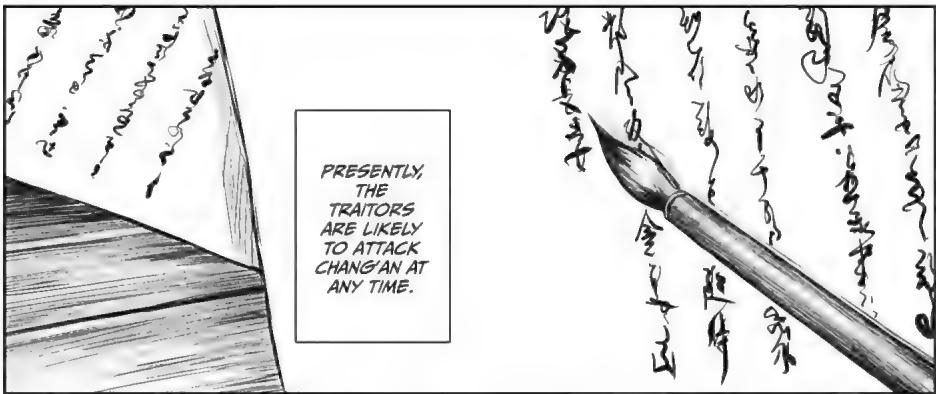






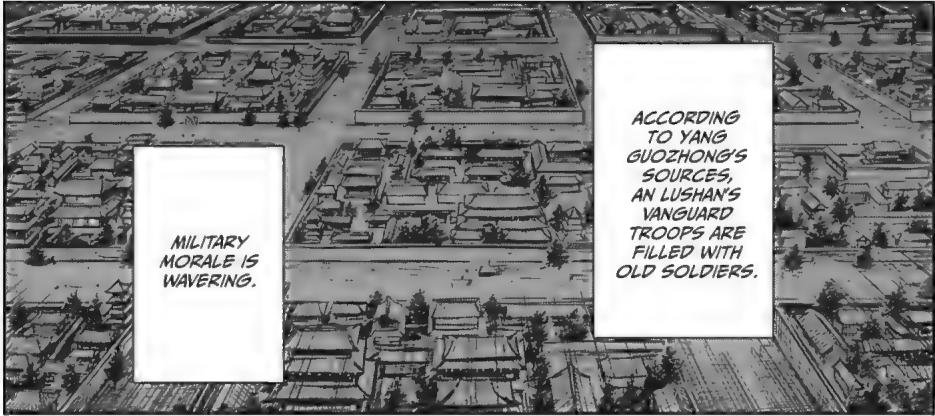
I'M
NOT
SURE
WHAT
TO
DO...





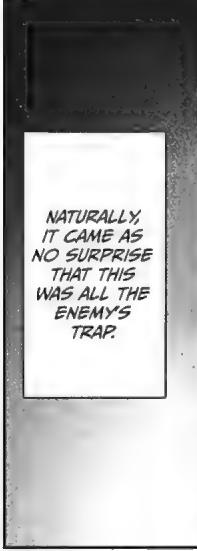


(TO) LI
BAI-

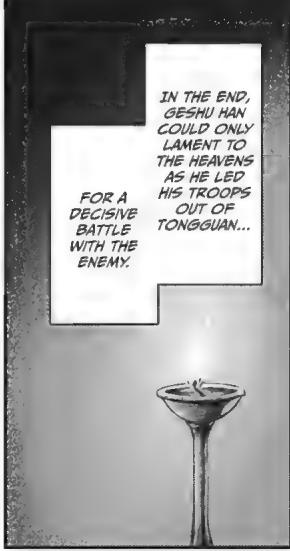


MILITARY
MORALE IS
WAVERING.

ACCORDING
TO YANG
GUOZHONG'S
SOURCES,
AN LUSHAN'S
VANGUARD
TROOPS ARE
ILLED WITH
OLD SOLDIERS.



NATURALLY,
IT CAME AS
NO SURPRISE
THAT THIS
WAS ALL THE
ENEMY'S
TRAP.



FOR A
DECISIVE
BATTLE
WITH THE
ENEMY.

IN THE END,
GESHU HAN
COULD ONLY
LAMENT TO
THE HEAVENS
AS HE LED
HIS TROOPS
OUT OF
TONGGUAN...



HE SENT A
STREAM OF
ENVOYS TO
TONGGUAN
TO URGE
GESHU HAN
TO FIGHT.



HIS
MAJESTY IS
DESPERATE
DUE TO THIS
REBELLION,
AND
INSISTENT
THAT THE
IMPERIAL
COURT WILL
TRIUMPH.



200,000
IMPERIAL
TROOPS
WERE
WIPE
OUT.

TONGGUAN
FELL.



THE DAY OF
XINMAO THE SIXTH
MONTH OF THE
FIFTEENTH YEAR
OF TIANBAO

0756 A.D.

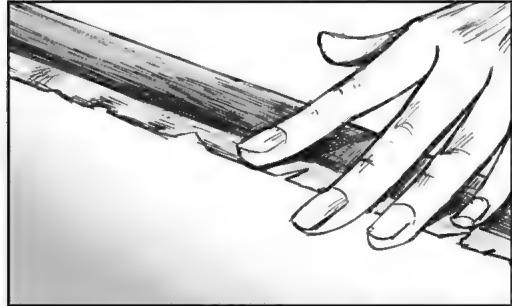
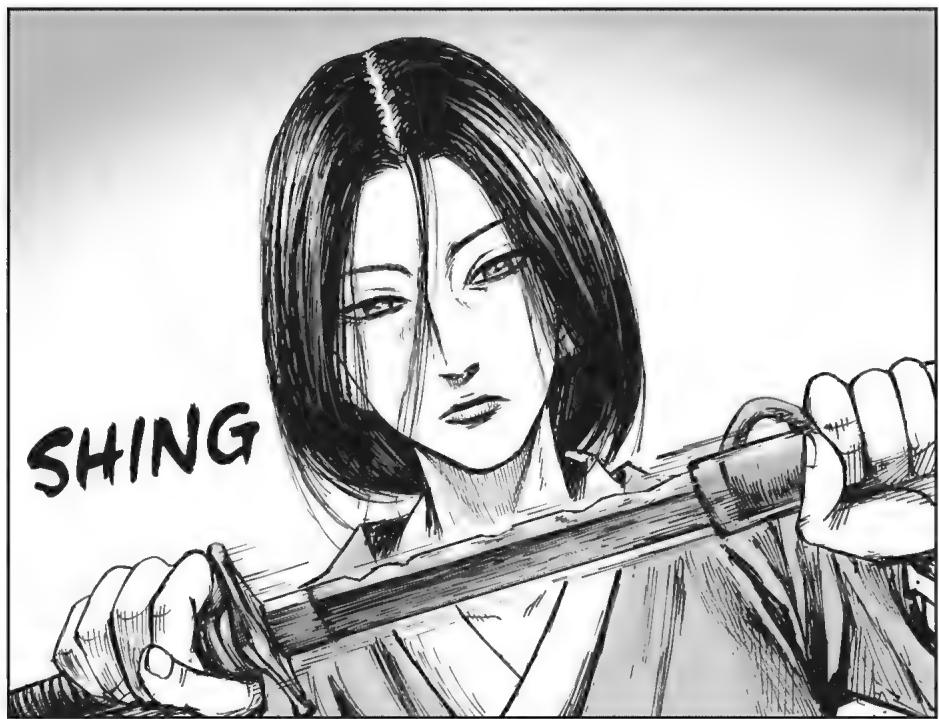




















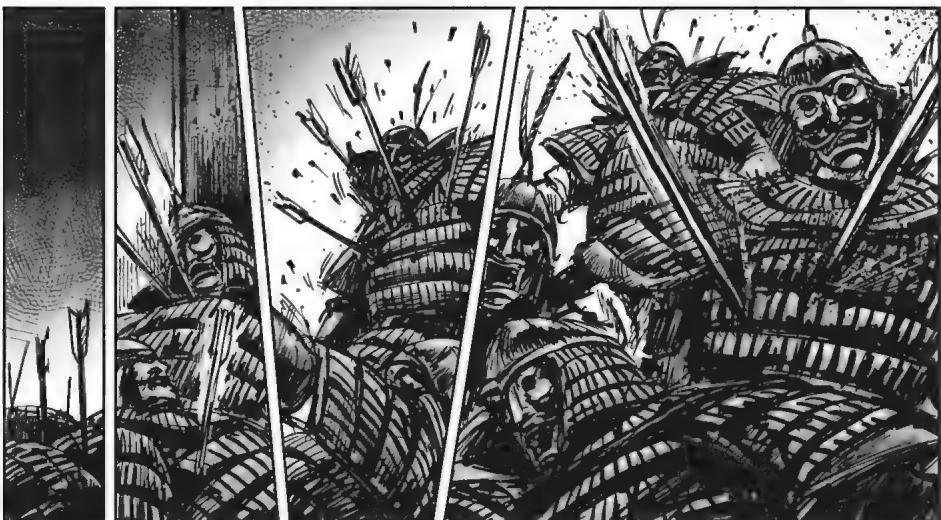


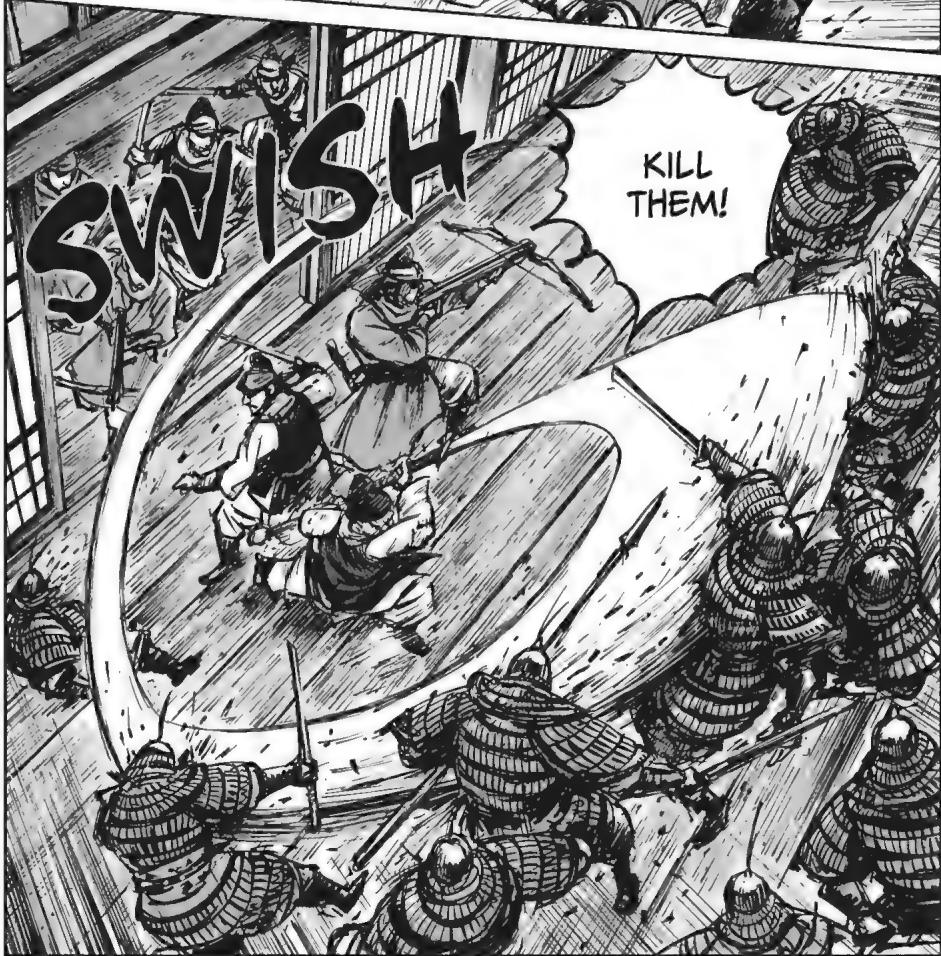










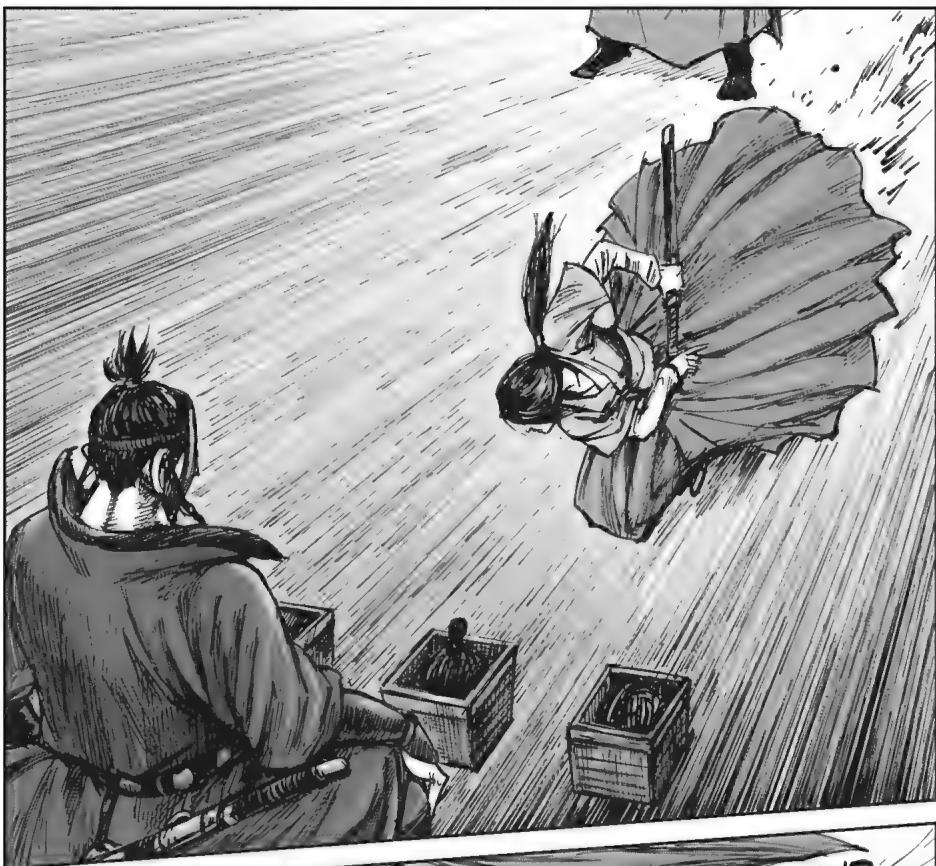






SLASH





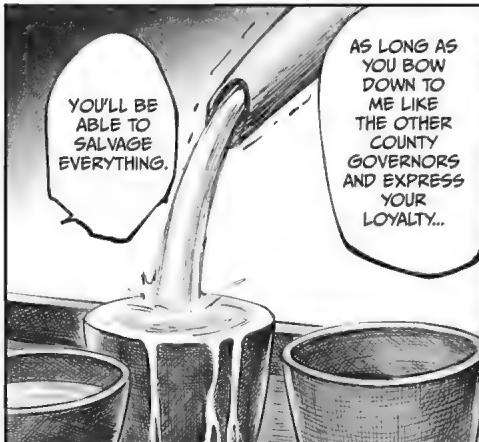
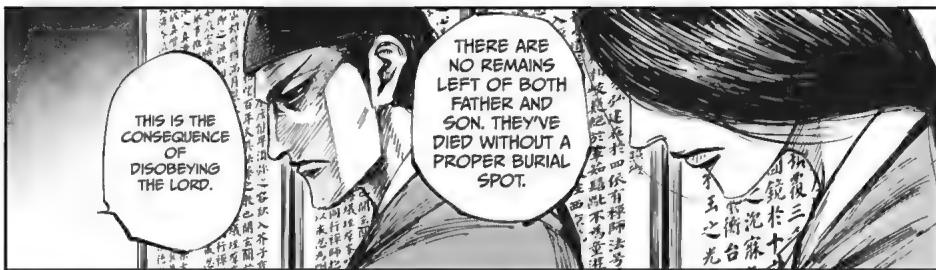




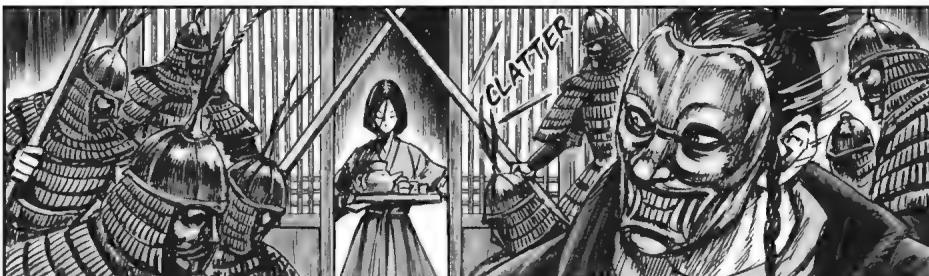


















ASSASSIN'S
CREED®
DYNASTY





TANG YELLOW GLAZED HOODED TERRACOTTA
WARRIOR RIDING A HORSE (COLLECTION OF
XI'AN MUSEUM)

塔號日月之光輝至四載塔事將就表請慶齋歸功
夜晝下蒲寺去讀向以爲常沒身不首自三當

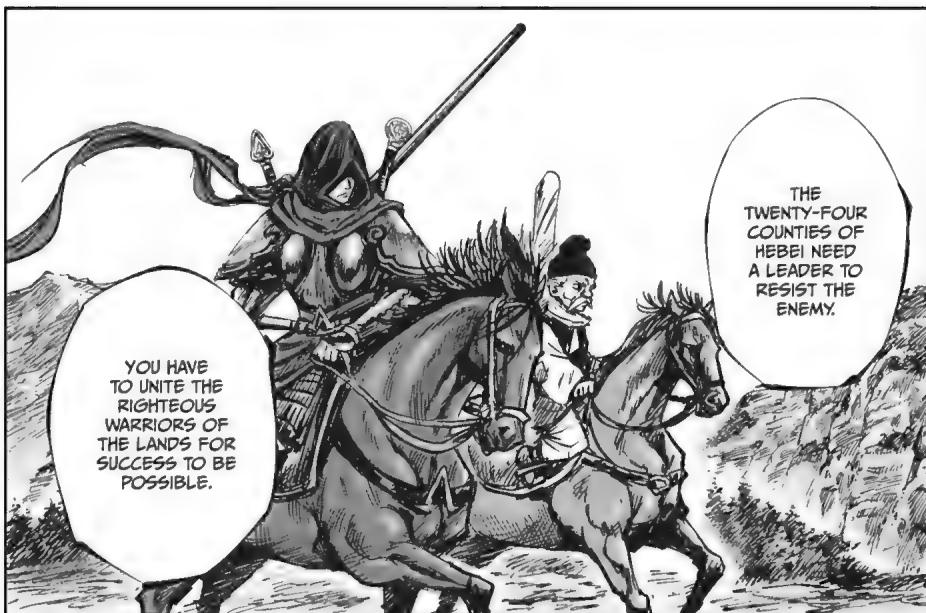
七十粒至六
一卷觀普賢
君生寫妙法
云師弘濟之
聖深旁錄以
猛歎勃如戰已
佛事參羅方寸平
久廢生我禪師光嗣其業繼明二祖相隨百年來
而歸一八萬法藏我爲家雄譽猶滿月
圓當之理門人莘莘如雲
有爲通解耽於文字

HE IS THE
COUSIN OF
CHANGSHAN'S
GOVERNOR,
YAN GAOQING...

降一百八粒畫普賢
粒盛以石函造自
六部用鎮寶塔又寫
成因果則法施
梵宮經始之功真
經檻玉函居徑深
遷朝英之首
筆精圓月身現小廣座
年來

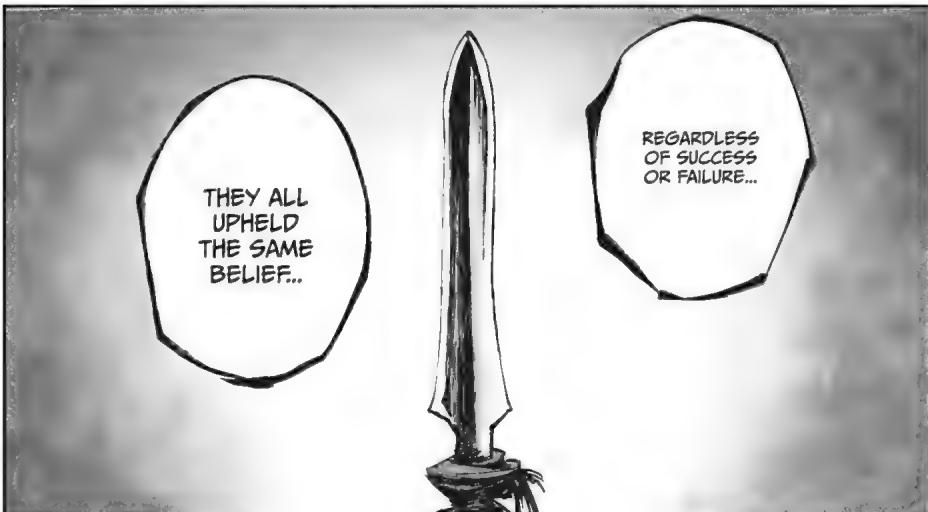
妙法蓮華經一千
滿之爾感達人天莊
無以參於誠願作成寶塔
神妙以弘微確誠承降琅玕
如戰色有與其容窮繪事之筆精圓月之偶
羅方寸平名盈尺萬象大身現小廣座能昇頂仰
我禪師光嗣其業繼明二祖相望百年來其法華之
八萬法藏我爲家雄譽猶滿月
圓日月而望之麗即之溫
相未言而降伏之心已忘半矣
門人苾芻如農靈悟淨真真空法濟等以定慧為入質
解脫於文字舉事微理含毫強名偈曰

YAN
ZHENQING.



ASSASSINATING
A KING...

IS NO DIFFERENT
FROM
ASSASSINATING ANY
OTHER MAN.



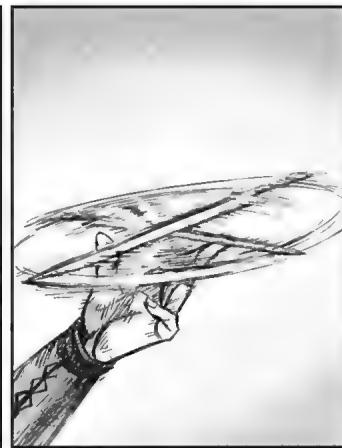


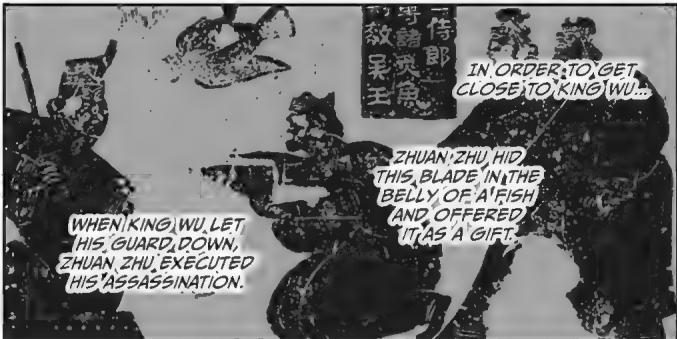
THIS
SPEAR...

IS CALLED
'JING KE!'











INFILTRATING
THE MIDST OF
TEN THOUSAND
SOLDIERS TO LOP
OFF THE HEAD
OF THE ENEMIES
LEADER.



UNSTOPPABLE IN
YOUR MARCH.

LIKE AN IRON
BEAST...







IT IS
CALLED THE
'NORTHERN
TREASURY OF
THE WORLD.'

HENCE, AFTER UNIFYING THE SIX STATES, QIN SHI HUANG ORDERED ALL WEAPONS ON HIS LAND TO BE CONFISCATED, AND FOR ALL ASSASSINS TO BE EXTERMINATED.

JING KE'S ASSASSINATION OF QIN SHI HUANG FAILED, BUT QIN SHI HUANG GREW FEARFUL OF ASSASSINS.



THIS SECRET VAULT CONTAINS THE MONEY, SILK, AND OVER 500,000 WEAPONS AND ARMOR GATHERED FROM JIANGHUAI, HENAN, AND QINGHE...

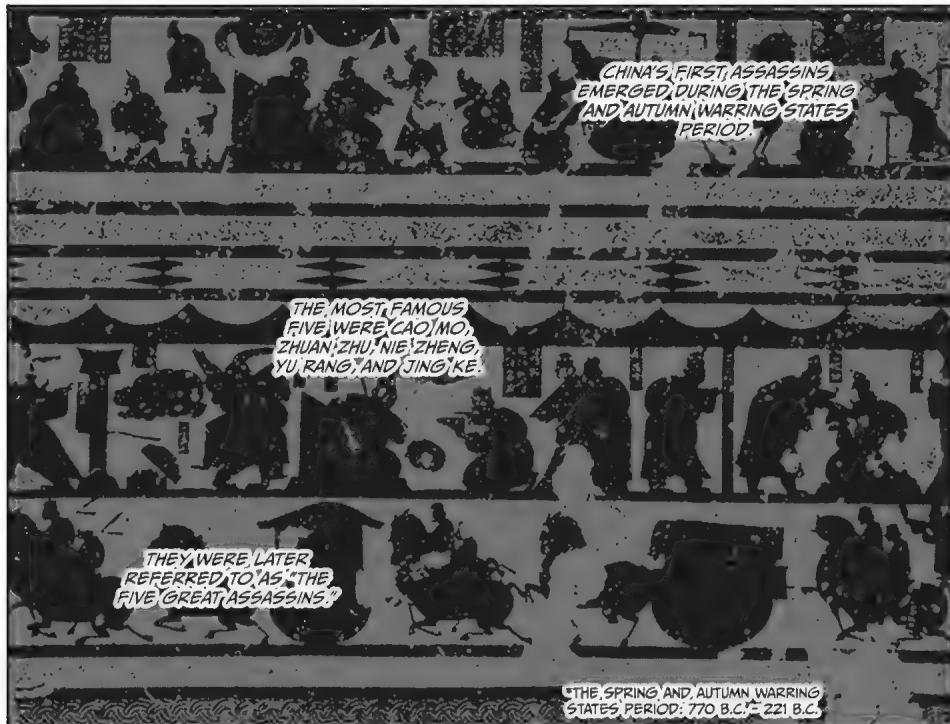
PRESENTLY...



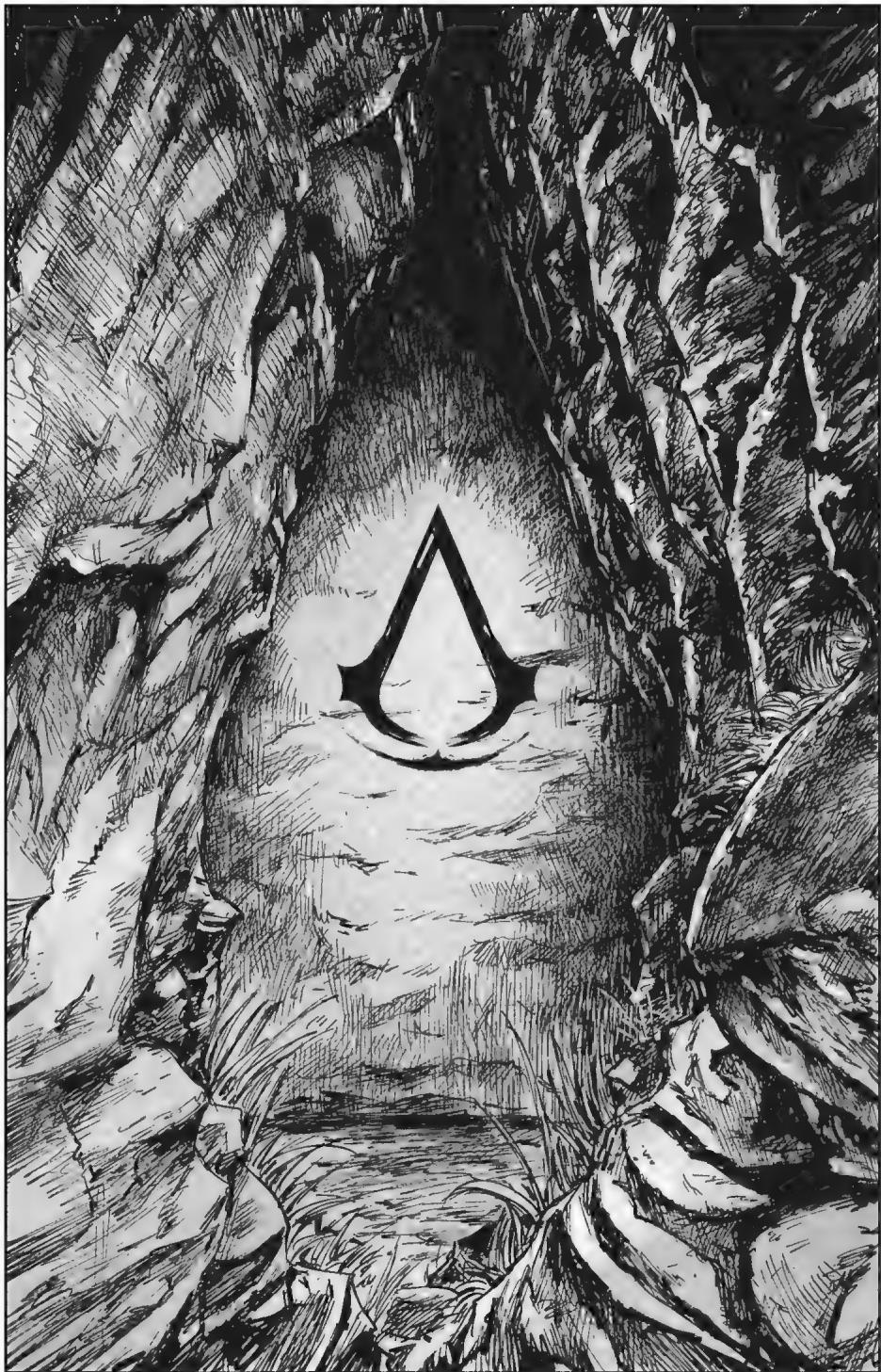
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE ASSASSINS LIVED IN THE SHADOWS.

THEY NO LONGER INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER AND ACTED INDIVIDUALLY.

LATER GENERATIONS ERECTED SECRET TREASURIES IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE CENTRAL PLAINS. THESE TREASURIES HAD WEAPONS, MONEY, AND SILK WHICH WERE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN PREPARATION FOR TIMES OF TROUBLE.



RIGHTEOUSNESS.

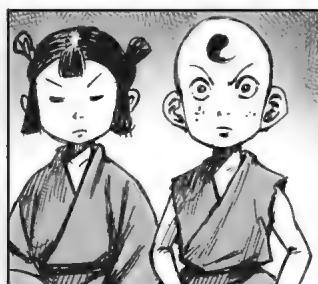
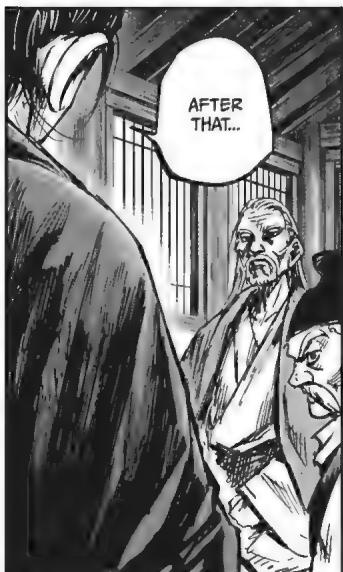






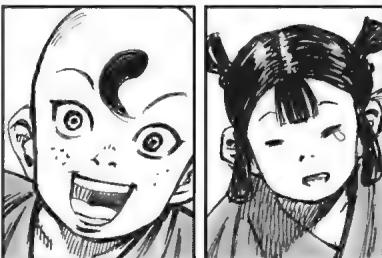


I'LL
ASSASSINATE
AN LUSHAN.





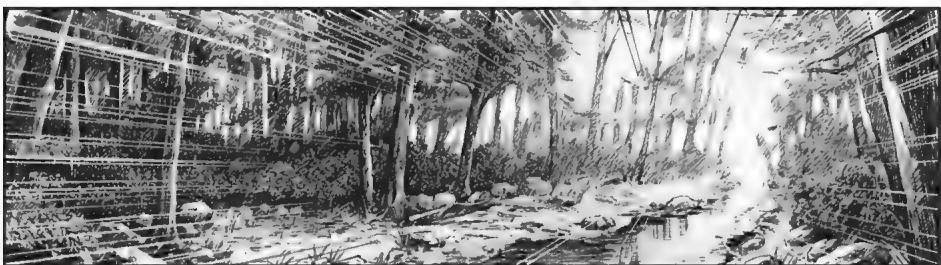
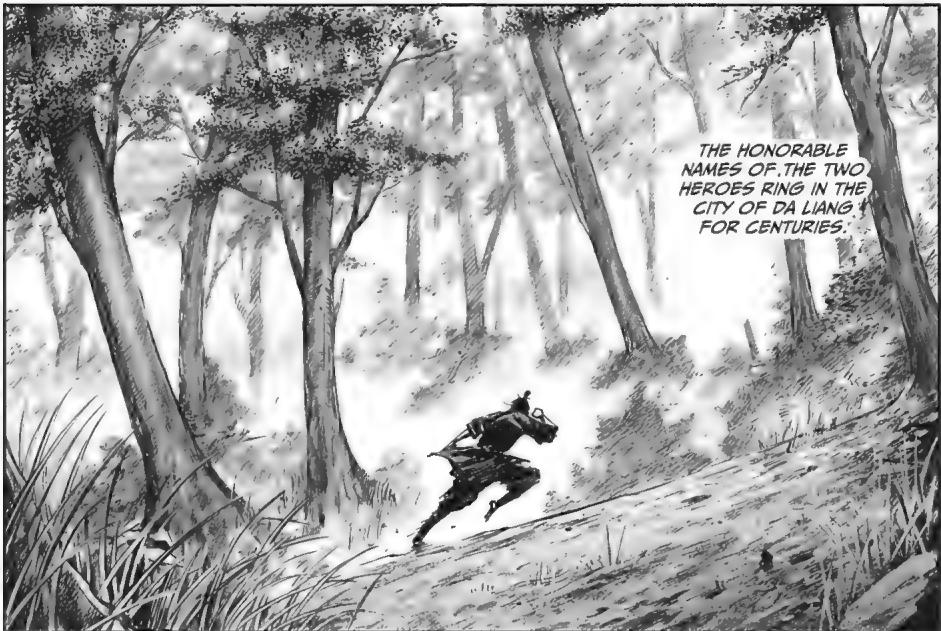


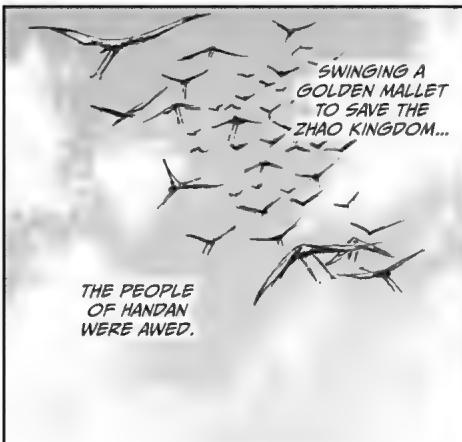




WHO CAN
BE LIKE THE
SCHOLAR, YANG
XIONG...

SPENDING
A LIFETIME
WRITING
BOOKS UNTIL
HIS DEATH?











ALL STORMS
COME TO AN
END. KEEP YOUR
SAILS STEADY,
AND YOU'LL BE
GREETED BY THE
VAST SEA!

YOU
NEED TO
KNOW...

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXIV







LEISURELY
DRINKING, LORD
XINLING REMOVES
HIS SWORD AND
STRETCHES HIS
LEGS.



AN INVITATION
SENT TO ZHU HAI
AND HOU YING
FOR A FEAST.



THE PASSIONATE WORDS
BETWEEN SWORDSMEN
MOVING THE HEAVENS TO
CONJURE A CLOUD BOW.



A PROMISE MADE
AFTER A FEW
CUPS OF WINE
IS HEFTIER THAN
THE FIVE GREAT
MOUNTAINS.

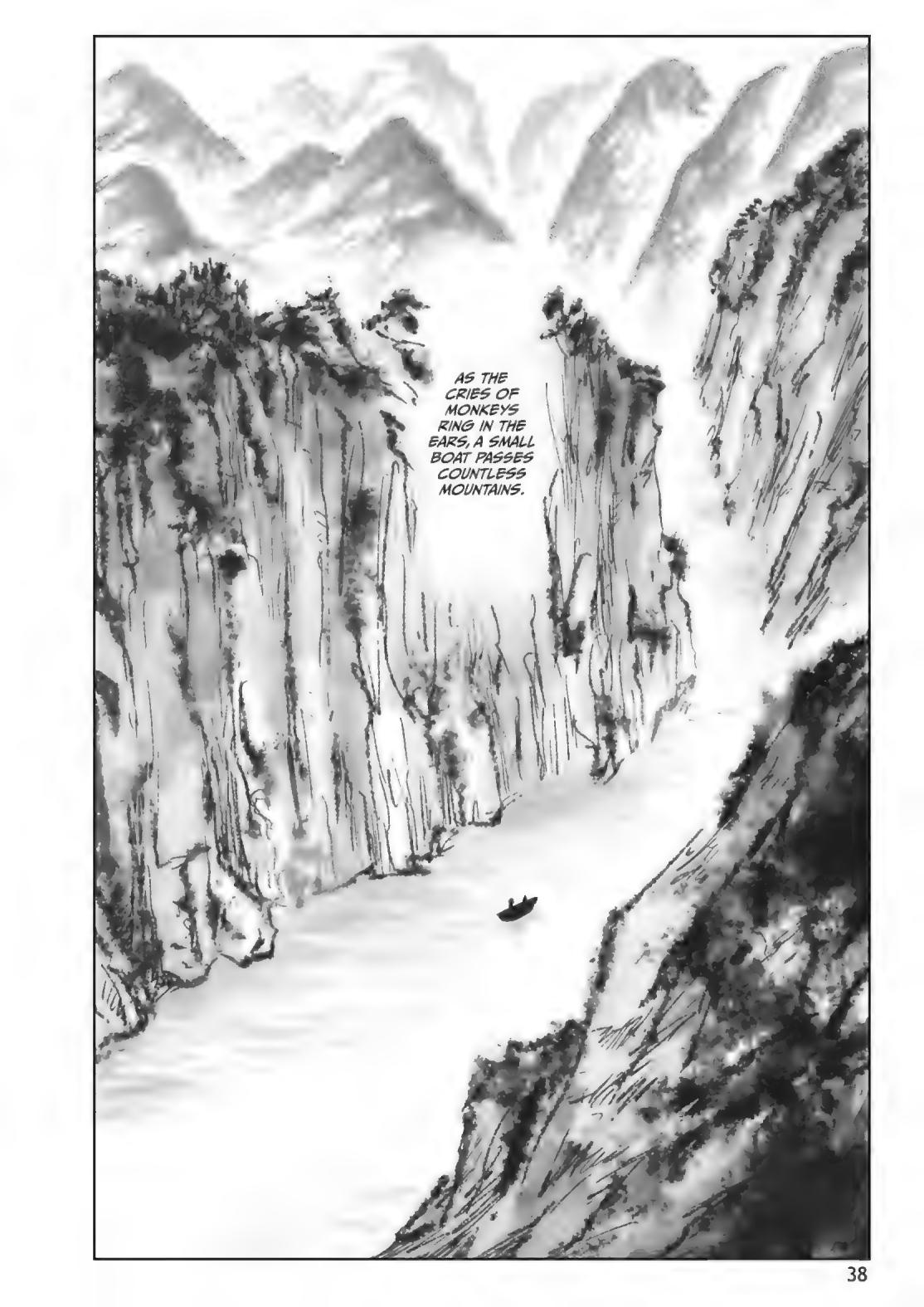


ASSASSIN'S
CREED®
DYNASTY



LI BAI VISITED THE PRIME MINISTER IN KAIYUAN AND OFFERED A PLAQUE WITH THE WORDS, "LI BAI FISHING FOR AO AT SEA." THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED, "SIR, WHAT DO YOU USE AS YOUR FISHING LINE WHEN FISHING FOR THE GIANT AO AT SEA?" LI BAI ANSWERED, "THE WIND AND WAVES LIBERATE ME, WHILE THE UNIVERSE EMBOLDENS ME. A RAINBOW ACTS AS MY FISHING LINE AND THE RADIANT MOON AS MY HOOK." THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED AGAIN, "WHAT DO YOU USE AS BAIT?" LI BAI REPLIED, "I USE THE WORLD'S TREACHEROUS MEN AS BAIT."

--RECORDS OF MACKEREL STEW



AS THE
CRIES OF
MONKEYS
RING IN THE
EARS, A SMALL
BOAT PASSES
COUNTLESS
MOUNTAINS.







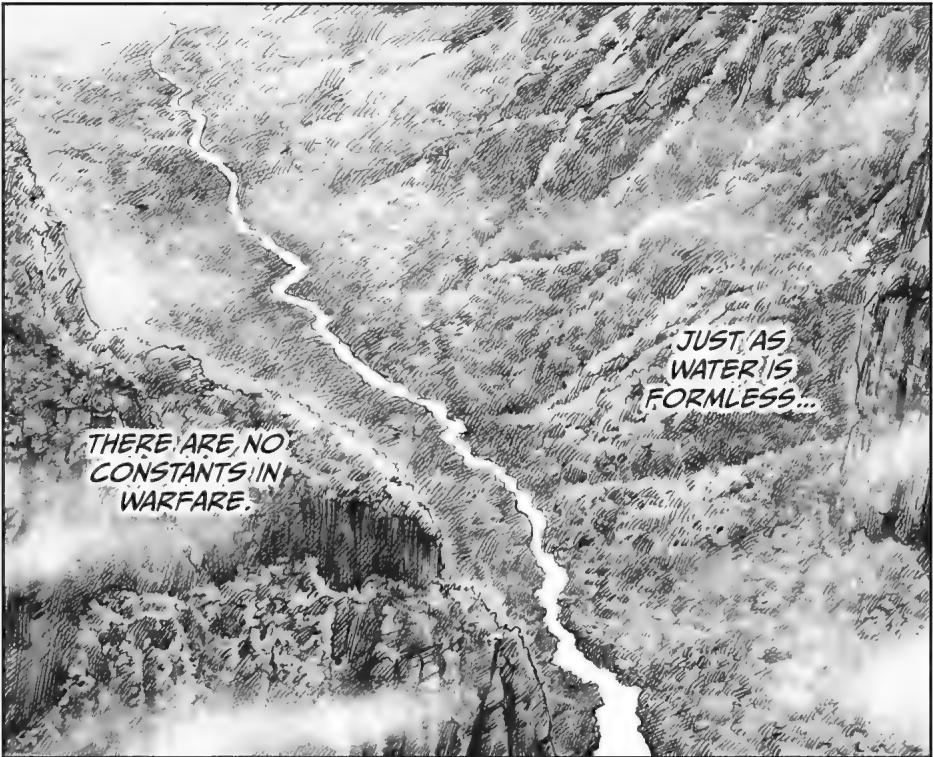


*AO: A MYSTICAL ANCIENT CHINESE CREATURE FROM "HUAINANZI." IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A DRAGON WITH A CARP'S TAIL AND A TURTLE'S HEAD OR A GIANT TURTLE.



WILL
BE
GOD.





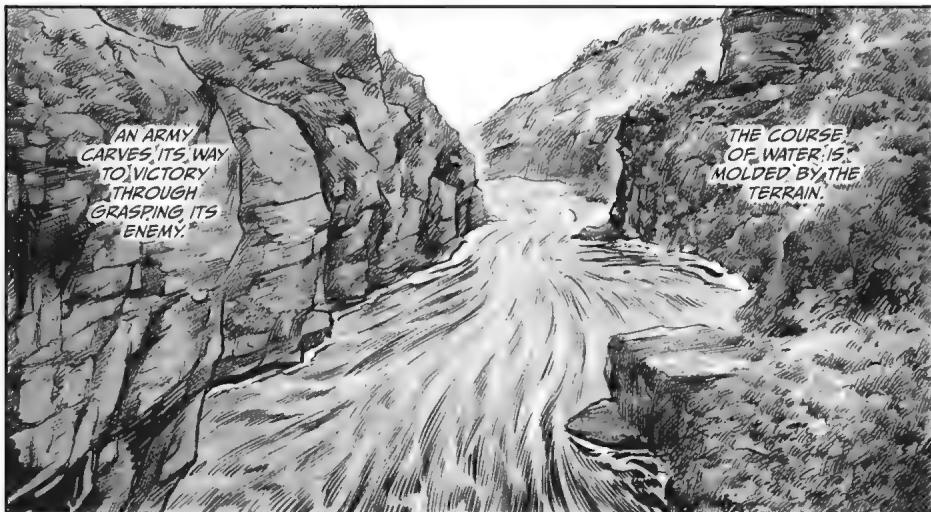


MILITARY
TACTICS ARE
LIKE WATER.



IN WAR, ONE
SHOULD AVOID
THE STRONG AND
STRIKE WHERE IT
IS WEAK.

WATER FLOWS
NATURALLY FROM
HIGH PLACES
AND HASTENS
DOWNWARD.

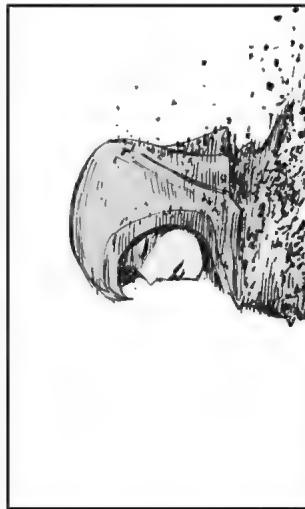
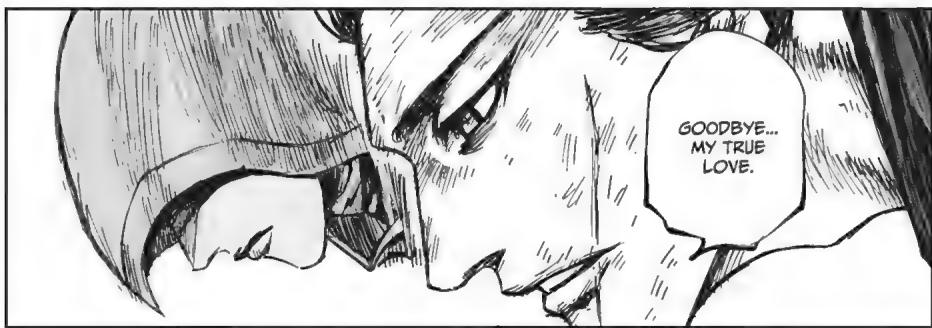


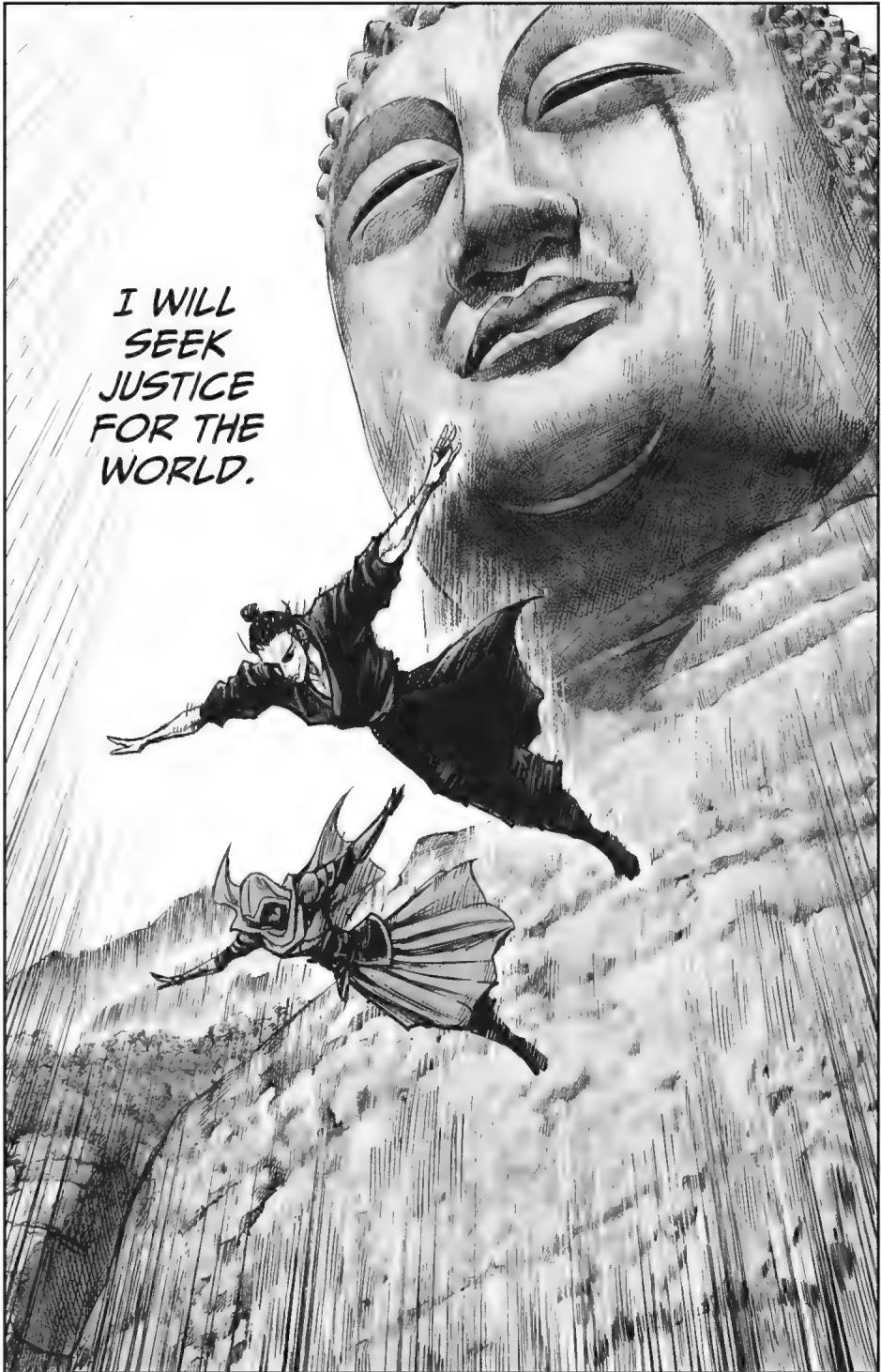
AN ARMY
CARVES ITS WAY
TO VICTORY
THROUGH
GRASPING ITS
ENEMY.

THE COURSE
OF WATER IS
MOLDED BY THE
TERRAIN.

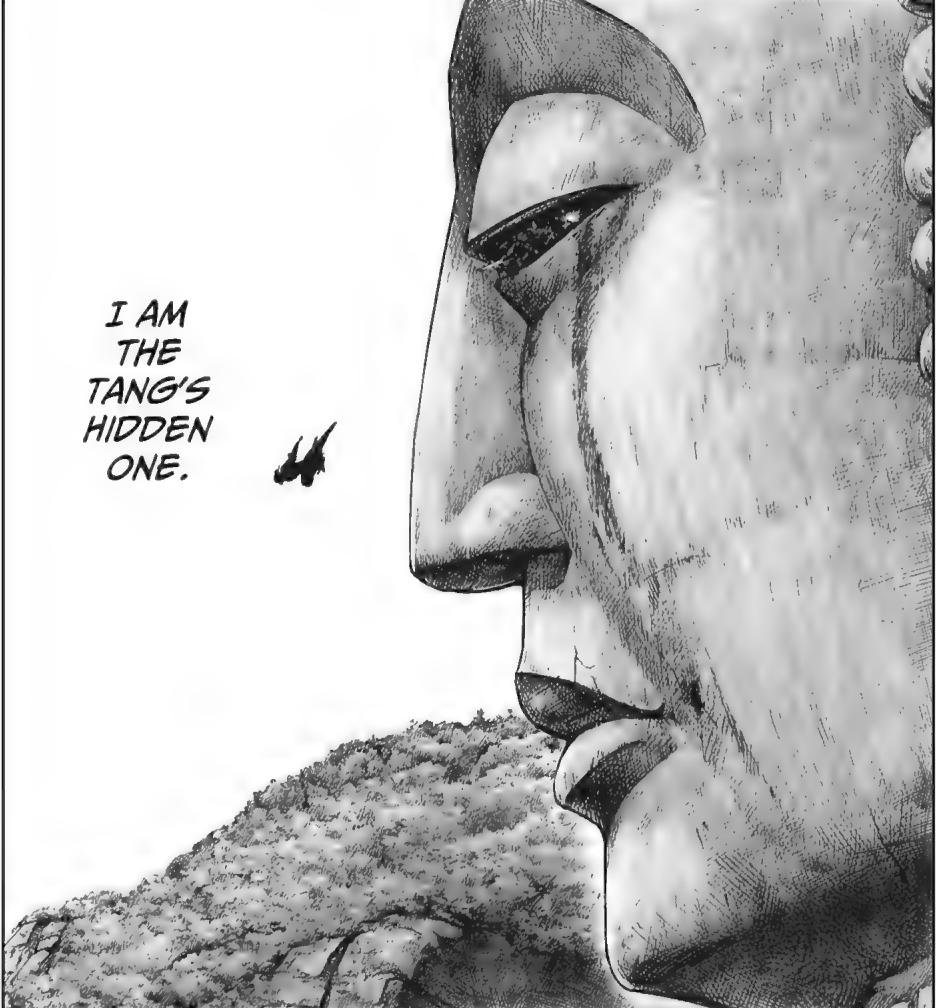


GOODBYE,
HIDDEN ONE.





I WILL
SEEK
JUSTICE
FOR THE
WORLD.



I AM
THE
TANG'S
HIDDEN
ONE.

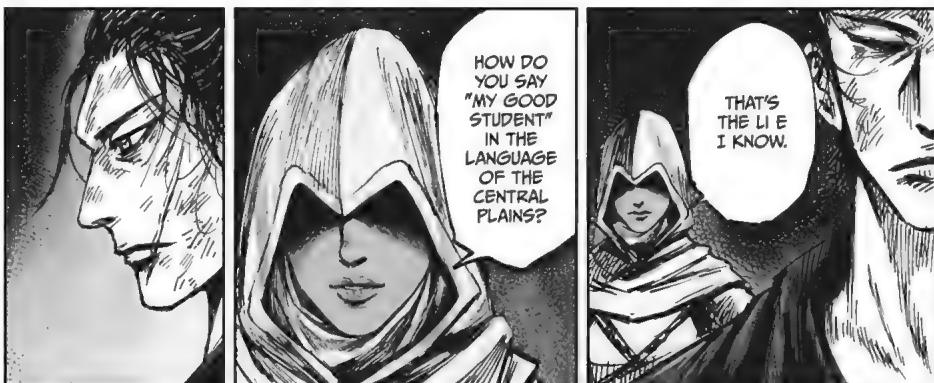


AND
SERVE
THE
LIGHT.

I WILL
CONTINUE TO
TRAVESS IN
THE DARKNESS...





















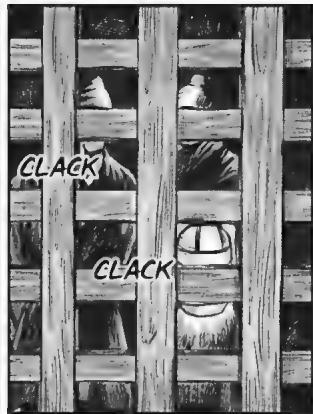


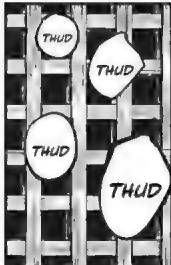














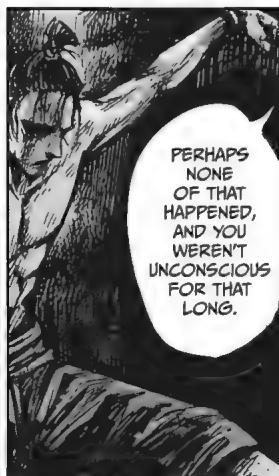


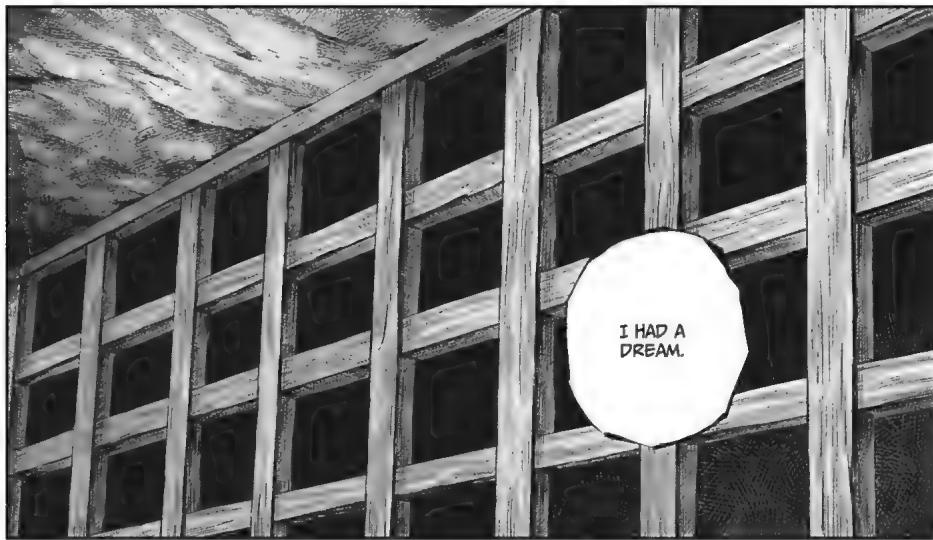




JUST
LIKE ALL
OF YOU.

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXIII







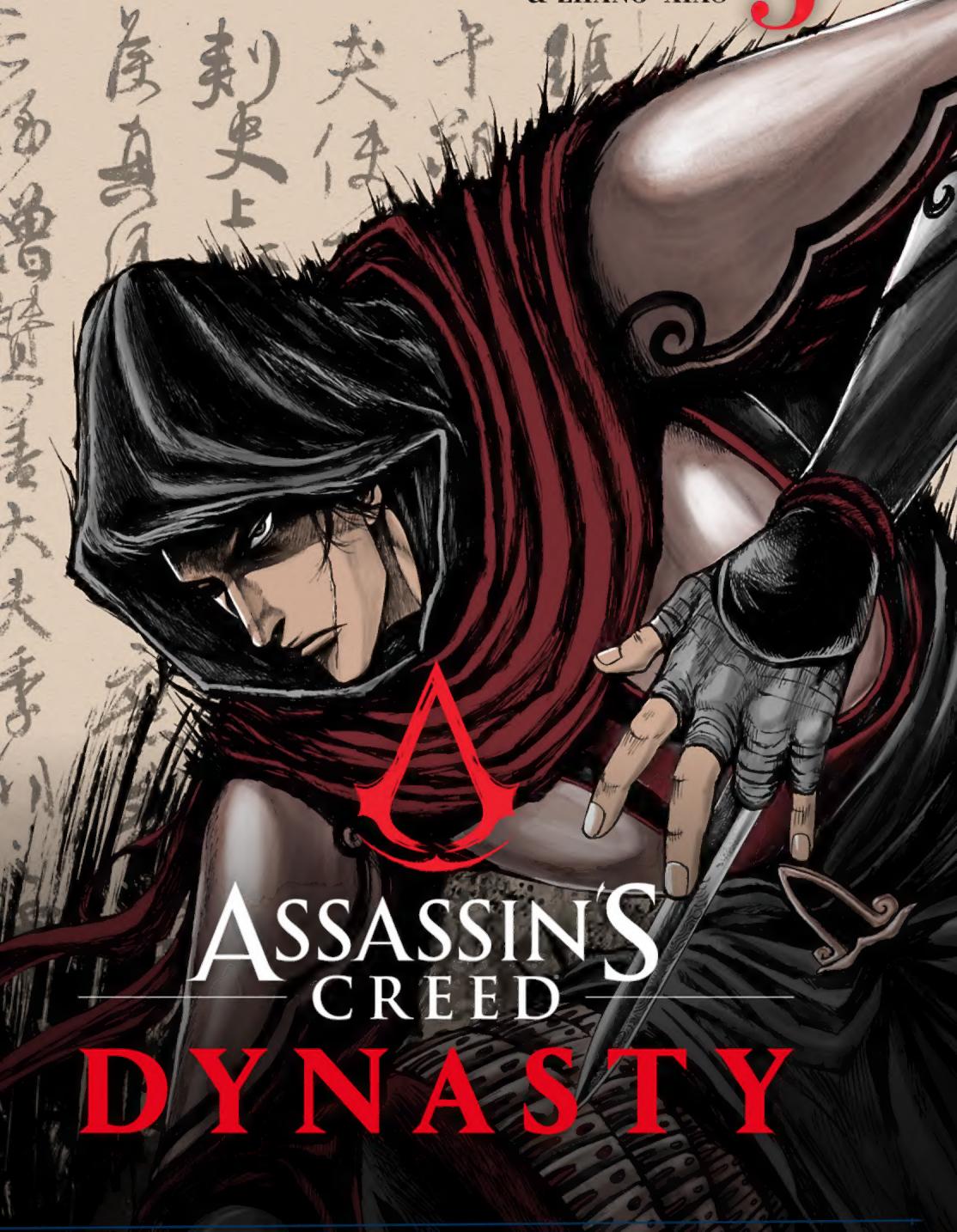
BOOK FIVE: **THE HIDDEN ONES**

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XU XIANZHE
& ZHANG XIAO

5



Assassin's Creed® Dynasty, Volume 5

Story by Xu Xianzhe

Art by Zhang Xiao

Assistant Artists - Zhou Peican, Lin Lin, Yuan Yuan
Consulting Historian - Meng Xianshi
Produced by - New Comics
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Translator - Karen Lam
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Editor - Lena Atanassova
Copyeditor - M. Cara Carper, Becca Grace
Marketing Associate - Kae Winters
Digital Marketing Assistant - Kitt Burgess
Cover Design & Graphic Artist - Soodam Lee
Editorial Associate - Janae Young
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Licensing Specialist - Arika Yanaka
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher - Stu Levy



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TOKYOPOP Inc.
4136 Del Rey Ave., Suite 502
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-5604

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
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